

DTI:Planning Review

From: Geoff Simpson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 September 2022 11:24 AM
To: DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Comments on SA planning system

To whom it may concern,

I have had cause to use the planning system recently in preparing a submission on a local proposal.

Presenting the Code in one complete document appears to be a good idea. Unfortunately it stretches to 4917 pages. I suggest that there needs to be an improved way of navigating the document for members of the public to get to see what they need to see. Finding what I wanted was like looking for an opal at Coober Pedy - you know it is there somewhere, but where.

This year I made a representation at our council's appeal panel (CAP). I was disappointed to find in that process that council staff were extremely biased towards the developer, giving very little consideration to the opinions of local residents. The panel itself heard from more than 30 local residents who presented a meaningful case based on the Code, but were completely overlooked. The panel asked no questions of the local people. However the panel admitted that the developer had not complied with some aspects of the Code, but said it did not matter. Even the Council elected member on the panel did not support residents' concerns. The proposal was approved 3 votes to 2, and is an example of a very poor planning decision. I suggest that in the CAP process:

- More weight should be given to the opinions of local residents, as long as their views were in line with the Code.
- The panel should discuss the representations made, and not just listen to the 5 minute speeches.
- The Council elected member of the panel should be charged with making sure the legitimate views of local residents are properly considered.
- The whole meeting should be recorded so that accurate comments can be made at an appeal meeting.
- There should be an easier way for residents to appeal against CAP decisions.

These comments are made following a meeting last night addressed by Minister Nick Champion MP where he encouraged me to send in my comments.

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Geoff Simpson

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