

From: [Donella Peters](#)
To: [DPTI:Planning Reform Submissions](#)
Subject: Comments on new State Planning Code
Date: Wednesday, 26 February 2020 1:57:44 PM

Dear Minister,

I have just been reading about the government's new Planning Code, and to say I am appalled would be an understatement. It seems like a hopelessly cobbled-together mishmash of ideas designed to make things harder and more confusing for Councils and individuals. At the same time, it seems to allow developers a lot more freedom, which will inevitably mean more clearing, more houses and an erosion of everything that makes the Hills a special place to live.

I am particularly dismayed at the extremely short time allowed for consultation, especially of such a complex document, which is not only hard to understand, but also still being added to, and rife with errors. To give Councils such a short opportunity to try to digest it and respond is insulting, as is insisting on a set implementation date, when it is clear that there is opposition and confusion, and a multitude of questions that need answering.

The fact that the government is trying to standardize planning codes across the whole of the State, ignoring the very real differences between different Council areas, is just ridiculous. How can the same guidelines apply in the Adelaide CBD, the Adelaide Hills and Oodnadatta?

Thousands of people live in the Hills, and many thousands more visit it to enjoy the very special character that it has, which is going to disappear rapidly if these planning changes are pushed through. Apart from negatively affecting the lives of residents, this will also affect tourism, not to mention adding thousands more residents to what is already a bushfire-prone area.

After the debacle surrounding the rezoning of rural areas around Mt Barker back in 2010, by the previous government, it should be fairly obvious that citizens expect, and have a right, to be listened to with regards to what is going to be allowed in the area they live in. We are sick of having the government's (and developers') ideas foisted on us with only the most token consultation, when it is clear that the government has already made up its mind. We expect genuine consultation, with reasonable time for this to happen, and for you to listen seriously and take our concerns into account, which means adapting and changing your ideas where necessary.

Your government may have won the last election, but your remit is to govern for the good of the people who live here, not to make life easier for developers.

Please go back to the drawing board with this Planning Code, start talking to the Councils and people who will be affected by it, and come up with something workable that respects our wishes and our needs. After all, we live here. We pay the taxes that pay your wages. We are, in effect, your employers.

Yours sincerely,

Donella Peters



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