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DPTI

Mr Tim Anderson QC
Chair
State Planning Commission
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DRAFT STATE PLANNING POLICY FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA CONSULTATION

Dear Mr Anderson,

I am writing to you to give my feedback on the Draft State Planning Policy for South Australia that has just been released. My name is Ivy Blacker and I live in the Adelaide Hills council area. I'm currently studying a Bachelor of Social Work at Flinders University as my passions and interests are heavily made up of social justice and person focussed arenas. I take a strong interest in current policy formation because of the social outcomes that these policies manifest after their implementation.

I believe my position as student of social science and an engaged citizen give me authority to speak into these policies. Social work, as a profession, problem solves and works on social changes to promote the wellbeing of individuals (AASW, 2010). Having input into the State Planning Policy is a practical way of fulfilling this aspect of social work. I am glad there is space and opportunity for consultation on these policies and hope that all of the submissions are seriously considered before policy is implemented. This submission will provide my reflections on Policy 13: Coastal Environments and my concerns, relating to this policy, regarding public health.

SUBMISSION SUMMARY

This submission with focus on Draft State Planning Policy 13: Coastal Environment, surrounding ideas of coastal development and the impacts these policies will have on coastal communities and therefore the public health of these communities. This will be done through an exploration of the following questions:

- Sustainable development in coastal environments is extremely ambitious due to the vulnerable nature of the coastline, yet the Draft State Planning Policy, in article 5 and 7, makes claim to protecting the coast while also sustaining and even increasing public access. How can the coast be protected while being continuously developed in this way?
- Were coastal communities considered an integral aspect of this planning process as they will be the ones most intensely affected by these new policies?

These concerns outline social problems that will result in direct health implications for the people and communities involved. The negative health implications of these aspects of the Draft State Planning Policy will be outlined in the following paragraphs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In Policy 13: Coastal Environments, article 5 states these plans will “facilitate sustainable development that requires a coastal site”, yet article 7 of the same policy reads that the state will ensure development maintains the public's access to coastal areas and work to improve this access. Studies have shown that increasing public access to coastal environments is extremely likely to result in negative effects to that coastline. Meaning that both plans for development and improving access to coastal areas must be handled with the utmost caution, in collaboration with the communities and business' that will be most heavily affected if the environment were to shift. Despite best efforts to make coastal development sustainable, if public access is improved then the coast inadvertently deteriorates (Davenport & Davenport, 2006). Therefore article 5 and 7 of the Draft State Planning Policy Document, seem paradoxical and carry with them negative health implications for coastal communities that will be affected by these consequences.

COASTAL COMMUNITIES

South Australian, coastal planning policies in the past has been largely circulated as not accepting adequate input from local communities. This has resulted in severe, negative impacts on the South Australian coastline since the planning of that area first commenced (WACRA, 2016). Areas of social capital along the coast, such as local communities relationship to the sea for industry, tourism and leisure, will have strong implications on the mental health of the people

existing in community along the coastline, if the coast was to deteriorate. The effects of development and increased public access to the coastline means the occupants of the coastline will become more susceptible to mental health problems as unemployment, financial strain, and environment change are some of the largest contributors to mental health (Germov, 2014). These will come with the deterioration of the area if article 5 and 7, of Policy 13, are carried out in a careless way. Collaboration with communities throughout the social planning process is an essential to guaranteeing the outcome of the planning benefiting and not harming the communities it will most profoundly affect (Weil, Reisch & Ohmer (eds), 2014). If this does not happen, it will result in multiple negative health issues that will affect the local communities and general public.

CONCLUSION

Social planning has the profound power to both improve and negatively affect many areas of the South Australian coastline and the social capital that that coastline entails. This has direct impacts on the health of the communities along the coast and public health in general. The coastal communities will be first to feel the effects of any planning that has manifested in their environment, therefore I ask that you consider the concerns I have presented, and contemplate their possible solutions before implementing these policies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ivy Blacker

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