

Mr Tim Anderson QC  
Chair  
State Planning Commission  
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### **Draft State Planning Policies for South Australia**

Dear Mr Anderson

I am writing to provide feedback to the consultation on the Draft State Planning Policies (SPP's) for South Australia. I am focusing my feedback on the State Planning Policies 13: Coastal Environment and 14: Water Security and Quality.

My name is Lucy Fordham, I am 25 years old and currently studying a Bachelor of Social Work at Flinders University. I have a keen interest in social policy and I am interested in one day becoming involved in policy making to help provide better outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

As part of an assessment for our Social Planning Theory topic, we were required to collaborate with our peers to provide feedback to an organisation or government body through the consultation process. We were asked to look at the policies from a social justice perspective, consider the relationship between health and social capital and also address the social determinants of health.

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) strongly encourages social workers to make policy submissions as they state it's one of the most effective ways of engaging with policy makers to positively impact the quality of life of the people we advocate for.

Over all, I commend the State Planning Commission on this draft document as it presents a holistic plan for land use in South Australia. It provides a positive outlook for collaborative community planning, promotes sustainable development and outlines the priorities envisioned for planning in this State.

I note that in the introduction it states that these SPP's must reflect the planning aspirations of the communities they serve. Social justice is a core value of the Social Work profession (AASW, 2010) and it is important for me to consider those people that may have been unintentionally excluded from this consultation process and ensure the views and needs of those people are reflected in these policies.

### **13: Coastal Environment**

#### **Objective: Protect and enhance the coastal environment and ensure that development is not affected by coastal hazards**

How do the proposed policies impact Indigenous communities in relation to land use?

The land of the Kurna people includes the Adelaide plains and runs south along the coast to Cape Jervis (South Australian State Library). There are many water ways and a large section of the south coast and Fleurieu Peninsula in the Kurna area and we know these include areas of great cultural importance. Therefore, rather than just ensuring development is not affected by coastal hazards, we should be ensuring consultation with Indigenous communities. In order to determine places of cultural significance before development occurs in coastal areas and ensure they are also not affected by coastal hazards.

I note that the SPP 7 speaks to Cultural Heritage and commend the Planning Commission for ensuring this was a key priority however, I think inclusion of the importance of engagement with Indigenous people needs to be included and linked into every aspect of planning and each policy in relation to land use.

All members of our community including those with a disability, illness or disease should be able to access all community spaces safely and with ease. The benefits of coastal environment to an individual's health are well known. Walking along the beach, swimming in the ocean and enjoying the natural coastal environment can lead to improved mood, mental health and physical health. Enabling people with complex needs to access coastal environments may promote positive mental health and physical health outcomes as well as build upon the diversity of social networks in these areas. This may include the introduction of wheelchair roll out mats, the same as the one used at Seacliff Beach, on more beaches throughout the State.

I understand that accessibility and inclusivity is discussed in SPP 2: Design Quality. I trust that this particular policy will be an integral part of all plans for land use and the concepts outlined in this policy are intended to be taken into consideration simultaneously with the other individual draft policies.

### **14: Water Security and Quality.**

#### **Objective: South Australia's water supply is protected from the adverse impacts of development**

In relation to the protection of water supply catchments, how will the plan help ensure the protection of river health, water supply and water quality of the River Murray from the actions of governments, irrigators and farmers in the Eastern states upstream?

We continue to see the detrimental impact drought has had on farmers across the country including economic and mental health concerns. One could argue that our location downstream and the Australian socio-political climate in recent years has resulted in issues regarding South Australia's access to water which has previously included the

implementation of strict water usage policies and increases in cost for irrigators and farmers.

Reduced access to water may have a negative impact on the social capital of the affected communities. Rural and regional communities are usually tight knit and rely heavily on the connections with neighbours. Potential social impacts may include the loss of a community's identity, important networks and supports.

Both SPP's 13 & 14 and the broader policy document contain aspects that will promote the development of social capital which is an important resource and can impact upon a person's health. The policies speak about supporting the environment, vibrant communities and economic growth all things which will ensure social and economic outcomes are balanced well.

In the glossary of the draft planning document it outlines what is meant by SPP. They are referred to as "overarching goals and requirements for the planning system" but in the same definition you state that "they must **not** be taken into account when making assessments, applications or decisions". What is the purpose of the planning document and this consultation if it is not intended to be included or enforced across the State in all Council Development Plans? I feel that it is important that guidelines around water security and land use across the State should be consistent across the board.

Whilst I agree with the overall concept and intention of this plan, I do think there are areas in which the government could ensure more rigorous community engagement and involvement at every level of drafting these policies. Particularly, taking into consideration the views of the Indigenous communities. I do not think we can talk about land use and development without ensuring their voices are heard.

I feel the policies are quite broad which means they are left open to an individual's interpretation. The questions throughout my response are intended to provoke deeper thought in relation to what members of the community this plan actually represents. Importantly, I want to ensure that all South Australians have equal access to resources and that social planning policies promote inclusivity and enhance community relationships.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my response to these policies and trust that my feedback will be taken into consideration.

Thank you for providing South Australians with an opportunity to be included in shaping the policies that will ultimately affect the future land use in their communities and State.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Fordham

**References:****Web References -**

- **Draft State Planning Policies Summary Document**  
[http://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/478657/Summary\\_of\\_the\\_Draft\\_State\\_Planning\\_Policies\\_for\\_South\\_Australia.pdf](http://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/478657/Summary_of_the_Draft_State_Planning_Policies_for_South_Australia.pdf)
- **Draft State Planning Policies**  
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- **South Australian State Library:**  
[http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/Aboriginal\\_peopleSA/Kaurna](http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/Aboriginal_peopleSA/Kaurna)
- **SA Disabled Surfers Association**  
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**Articles -**

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Gilliard, J., & Marshall, M. (2011). Transforming the quality of life for people with dementia through contact with the natural world: Fresh air on my face. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

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