

## DTI:Planning Review

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**From:** Dale Sutton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 December 2022 5:11 PM  
**To:** DTI:Planning Review  
**Subject:** Submission on the Planning System Review

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

From my personal perspective as an engagement practitioner in local government\*, I feel that:

- **Councils should play a much greater role in planning decisions.** Over time council's powers have been intentionally eroded by the state government to ensure developments can proceed, and do so much faster. This shift has removed the local voice in the process at the detriment of local residents and businesses.
- **The community engagement (public consultation) process for each development proposal should be able to be shaped by the council** based on their local knowledge, and the likely impact of the development on the local community. In some instances residents are not even being informed (let alone being able to have a say) on developments that directly impact them, which leads to anger and distrust in the process and in all levels of government. There have been numerous instances where council has received complaints due to residents being unaware of a development until construction starts, and when we look into it due process has been followed, but the resident rightfully feels they should have at least been told about the proposed development, even if they couldn't influence it.
- **Councils should undertake the engagement on any proposed code amendment changes,** with private proponents covering the costs. The current process where the proponent is undertaking the engagement allows the process to be skewed to achieve the outcome they are wanting. Proponents are also not necessarily skilled in planning and executing community engagements. I am aware of examples where proponents did not respond to those who made a submission to let them know the outcome or the next steps, which is poor engagement practice.

*\* Please note that these are my personal views, and they do not necessarily reflect the views of my employer.*

Kind regards,

Dale Sutton  
[REDACTED]