

Community Alliance SA Inc
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Engaging for Reform



24th September, 2021

Mayor Trevor Knight
Tea Tree Gully City Council,
571 Montague Road
MODBURY. SA 5092

Via Email: customerservice@cttg.sa.gov.au

Dear Mayor,

We write to you to express our deep concern over the lack of local government representation and loss of democratic processes evidenced within the current state wide planning system.

These are enshrined in the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, Regulations and Planning & Design Code (Code). As a result, councils and residents have lost a voice and a balanced structure of local/state partnerships in planning significantly through:

- The membership of the State Planning Commission lacking unconflicted representation of local government and community
- Development assessment processes removed from council as the local planning authority except for financial responsibility of implementing and operating Assessment Panels and undertaking compliance
- Council Assessment Panels membership of elected members reduced to one from three, with four independent members.
- Local participation in development assessment significantly reduced through lack of notification, loss of rights of representation and appeal provisions
- Loss of prior council strategic planning and policy content in the Code, resulting in a Code that does not reference local council strategic planning that addresses heritage, infrastructure, public health, economic, social and environmental services issues.

Can you help to change this situation? We ask that your council consider the following recommendation :

That the Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC) considers the following motion at its next meeting:

The LGA calls on the State Government for an independent and comprehensive review of the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act and associated documents with respect to maintaining effective and defensible democratic process related to:

- 1. Local participation in planning*
- 2. Local government representation in planning*
- 3. The protection of local heritage places and items; and*
- 4. The preservation of neighbourhood character through consideration of appropriate design principles*

By actioning this suggestion prior to the state election, all stakeholders can be clear about the support candidates will have with respect to democratic processes in planning.

We submit that our members and supporters have consistently raised concerns over the manner in which the planning reform process has ignored specific concerns regarding engagement, lack of acknowledgement to loss of notification and comment for development proposals, and the excessive costs expended by the SPC. There has been little inclusive and thorough training of the public and councils prior to activation of the Code. Consequently the activation involved a premature and problematic on-line system, with the Commission ignoring submissions raising key concerns, inclusive of process, heritage content and climate change response.

We ask this on behalf of our members. The Community Alliance SA Inc (CASA) is an umbrella organisation for over 35 residential action groups in South Australia. CASA was formed in 2011 following a number of controversial Ministerial Development Plan Amendments that caused widespread community concern. We advocate for our member groups, including lobbying for reform of government, planning and related legislation, and for genuine community engagement.

We would be grateful if you could respond to this request, and are available should you have any further questions,

Yours sincerely



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