



Better Planning Network Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW PLANNING PATHWAY SIDELINES LOCAL PLANNING

Property developers will be able to propose their own spot rezoning and planning controls for large developments, bypassing local councils and instead putting their proposal to the newly announced Housing Delivery Authority (HDA) which will sit within the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

The HDA will be headed up by a 3-person team, the Secretary of the Premier's Department Simon Draper, the Secretary of the Department of Planning Kiersten Fishburn and the Chief Executive Officer of Infrastructure NSW, Tom Gellibrand. The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will remain the consent authority for projects through this pathway.

Better Planning Network believes this new planning pathway is yet another setback to orderly planning.

While it is understood there will be the opportunity for the public to view and comment on HDA proposals prior to the final decisions, being able to make comment towards the end of the decision making process is quite different from councils and communities having local input at the beginning of a planning proposal process.

"Councils are better attuned to the expectations and wishes of their local communities. They are responsible for and accountable to their community" said a Better Planning Network spokesperson, The Hon. Philip Ruddock AO.

"It is not clear as to what commitments will be obtained where significant infrastructure will be needed to properly progress a proposal. There are numerous infrastructure issues considered by councils and the community, including water, sewage, access, traffic and open space to name a few, that the HDA will now need to consider" said Mr Ruddock.

Better Planning Network has consistently expressed concerns that the community and councils, which have extensive knowledge of their local areas, are being progressively sidelined in the planning process. BPN advocates for giving local communities a genuine and meaningful voice in shaping their local area. Spot rezoning undermines local planning, puts pressure on infrastructure, and erodes the community's trust in planning.

BPN calls on the NSW Government to keep planning in the hands of local planners and the community, not in the hands of developers.

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