

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP
Minister for Planning and Homes
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW

14th January 2022

Dear Minister Roberts,

RE: Importance of retaining Design & Place SEPP exhibition period to 28th February 2022

We are writing to relay our strongest objections to the outrageous call by the developer lobby to halt the current exhibition of the draft Place and Design SEPP. The Urban Taskforce calls it 'unworkable and inadequate', which is contradictory to your Planning Department, the Institute of Architects and all the community groups and Councils who have supported a more forward-looking planning regime that benefits residents, both current and future, rather than short term developer interests.

FOKE has made submissions on the various discussion documents prior to the draft Policy document for this SEPP being circulated for review. FOKE will be making a submission prior to the deadline date of 28th February. With the Christmas and New Year break, the February deadline must be retained to allow for a full review of all the documents totalling approximately 400 pages.

The SEPP is an essential regulatory measure to establish improved environmental sustainability for the entire community aimed at delivering:

- improved living conditions (addressing issues from higher temperatures, particularly in Western Sydney),
- biodiversity, tree and green space protection and enhancement,
- action on global warming and
- reduced pressure on the cost of living.

Your own introduction to the SEPP states how important it is to make 'sure everyone can be part of healthy, productive, and sustainable communities, with access to greener places, better public spaces, and homes that are comfortable to live in – no matter where they live.'

The SEPP is strongly supported by the Australian Institute of Architects, in a 10th December 2021 Press Release it stated "It is imperative that the planning and design of cities and towns evolves to address the challenges of climate change, as well as social and cultural divides, if we are to ensure a high quality, sustainable built environment legacy for future generations.

"People's basic rights to access sunlight, ventilation, privacy and open space must be protected and placing good design at the heart of the planning process will significantly improve outcomes for our communities.

"The Institute supports planning policy which enables community input in shaping the future of places, delivers certainty for investors and the resulting confidence in the system."

https://www.architecture.com.au/archives/news_media_articles/architects-welcome-release-of-design-and-place-sepp-as-a-win-for-communities

The Department of Planning should make the finalisation of this SEPP a priority in the public's long-term interest, rather than allow developer interests to dominate the outcome. It is essential this SEPP becomes law by mid-2022 so that Sydney can be put onto the path of responsible development for present and future generations.

The government will be judged by this legacy as it will determine the liveability status for residents of Sydney and NSW into the future.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Cowley
PRESIDENT

cc Mayor and Councillors
cc The Hon Jonathan O'Dea MP Member for Davidson
cc The Hon Alister Henskens SC MP Member for Ku-ring-gai
cc The Hon Paul Fletcher MP Member for Bradfield