



Media Release

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COMMUNITY NEEDS RESULTS OF WHITE PAPER SUBMISSIONS ANALYSIS

Friends of Ku-ring-gai environment Inc. President Kathy Cowley called on the Premier Barry O'Farrell today to require the Planning Minister Brad Hazzard, "to release the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's analysis and report on the 5000 public submissions received from the public during the consultation period of the White Paper and Draft Planning Bills," Kathy Cowley said.

The Bill is expected to be introduced to Parliament soon.

"We also believe the community is entitled to see the content of the Bill BEFORE it goes to Parliament. The comments of the general community about the Green Paper do not seem to be reflected in the White Paper and there is grave doubt that the views of the general community may not be reflected in the Bill," Kathy Cowley said.

It is clear from the independent analysis of randomly selected public submissions commissioned by the Better Planning Network that there is a "remarkable consistency on a number of key issues from stakeholders across the spectrum," Kathy Cowley said.

"Issues raised in the spectrum of submissions included - an undue emphasis on economic growth; no commitment to the principles of ecologically sustainable development; removal of the community's right to comment at the Development Proposal stage; the reduction of some third party right to access judicial review of decisions etc," Kathy Cowley said.

"The Minister's assertion to the Sydney press last week that 'a lot of the groups don't agree with each other' simply does not stack up when you look across the wide spectrum of submissions," Kathy Cowley said.

"The Minister promised accountability and transparency of the processes - now he needs to demonstrate that the process has been genuine, fair and accountable", Kathy Cowley said.

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