



# Oxley Creek Catchment Association Inc.

*Our Mission: To protect and enhance the natural environment and resources of the catchment of Oxley Creek by partnering, advocating, educating and participating in catchment management*

**Submission No. 082**

**11.1.13**

Oxley Creek Catchment Association Inc

PO Box 217

Sherwood Qld 4075

18 January 2016

Research Director  
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
Sent via email: [iprnc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:iprnc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir

Thank you for the opportunity to make submissions on the proposed planning frameworks tabled in Parliament by the Government and the Private Member Tim Nicholls.

The Oxley Creek Catchment Association Inc is a not-for-profit community group working to conserve and improve the environment and natural resources of the Oxley Creek catchment, the largest of the urban catchments serving the Brisbane River. As such, the extent and nature of future development is of great concern to our organisation.

We understand that the private member planning bills tabled by Tim Nicholls MP has very limited community consultation and seems to have been drafted to benefit the development industry at the cost of the transparency and good governance that the community expects. It makes no mention of the measures required to deal with climate change nor does it seek to adequately protect our environment. The government legislation at least ensures that Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) is a central purpose of planning legislation. The Private Members Bill (the Planning Act) does not provide adequately for ESD to be a key purpose of the proposed planning legislation and is therefore manifestly inadequate to deal with all the social and environmental issues facing our communities.

The Private Member legislation should not be considered by Parliament because it also introduces a planning process which removes much of the contents of the Planning Act to supporting instruments. As these instruments are not available for public view it is impossible to judge the likely full effect of these proposed bills, and presumably such instruments can be changed much more readily and quickly than can legislation, leading to potentially unacceptable outcomes for our environment.

To strengthen the role of codes in the land use planning and development system, performance indicators should be included in the planning frameworks to help guide and assess the effectiveness of planning decisions. This will assist with the transition to urban areas to address climate change and protect biodiversity. To truly address climate



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change issues the Bill should also incorporate measures for allowing urban spaces and residential areas to include measures to enable adaptation to reflect our changing climate.

Assessment managers should be required to provide reasons for their decision making including an explanation of how the advice of referral agencies has or has not been integrated and reasons for the latter.

The Bill should incorporate a legislative requirement for The State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA) to comply with the advice of specialist referral agencies on matters over which those agencies have jurisdiction. SARA does not have the resources or professional expertise to be able to adequately assess development affecting such sensitive areas as coastal zones, cultural heritage or vulnerable vegetation communities.

Any planning legislation should also ensure that the cumulative effects of developments in an area are considered and the required infrastructure provided. Real community input should be sought and fully implemented.

If Queensland is to move forward and embrace future opportunities then the proposed planning legislation needs to fully consider ESD principles, the environment, and adaptation to climate change as well as being transparent, accountable and have provision for community consultation at all levels.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Whitfield', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lynn Whitfield

President

Oxley Creek Catchment Association Inc