

12 October 2012

VIA EMAIL (sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au)

State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee  
Queensland Parliament  
Parliament House  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Submission regarding the Sustainable Planning and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 – Clause 61 Amendment of Section 457 (Costs)**

As a concerned resident of Queensland, I make a submission regarding the detrimental effects to the proposed amendment regarding "own costs" in the Planning and Environmental Court. Currently each party to The Proceeding in the court must bear its own costs. The amendment proposes to change the "own costs" rule in the Planning and Environment court for the costs to follow the result of the case. The act as it stands has allowances for ordering cost in circumstances where parties actions are irrelevant or irresponsible.

Moreover, the amendment will give cashed up, powerful entities such as the duopoly supermarket chains, national land developers and resource corporations the ability to assert fear and intimidation into individuals, community groups, not for profit associations and even local government with the very real threat of having "costs" awarded against them. This will fundamentally deprive any proceeding of a fair and equitable hearing.

I advocate the withdrawal of clause 61 from the bill.

If you would like to discuss this matter with me, I can be contacted on 07 5471 7077.

Yours sincerely



**Malcolm Chilman**

