



State Development, Infrastructure, and Industry Committee,  
Parliament House,  
Brisbane, Qld. 4000

Re: **Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill**

**Section 6: Awarding of Costs in the Planning and Environment Court**

We submit that the proposed amendment will have a significant negative effect on the democratic process of appealing against development proposals.

Community groups and individuals alike will be effectively deterred from appealing against inappropriate developments if costs of proceedings must be borne by the loser in the case of any appeal being lost.

Where proposed developments are large-scale these costs would be prohibitive to most community groups and individuals, and will negate the impartial power of discretion of the courts to determine the allocation of costs.

It will result in disempowerment of communities to participate in shaping and preserving their environments, a basic democratic right.

Merrilyn Coad

Trevor Coad

12<sup>th</sup> October, 2012