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State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

I would like to object to the proposal in Section 6 in the Sustainable Planning and other Legislation Amendments Bill 2012 regarding the awarding of costs in the Planning and Environment Court. I feel it disadvantages individuals and community organisations who may wish to oppose developments, especially those that they feel are inconsistent with the well being and long term interests of the community or area.

Developers have deep pockets. The prospect of being liable for developers costs if an appeal is lost will be enough to prevent most appeals against developers ever getting started thus silencing those who might want to appeal against a development.

In a democracy like Australia both sides should be able to voice their views. This legislation, if introduced, will effectively stifle the poorer side giving developers unbridled rights.

Please delete this awarding of developer's costs to the appellant if an appeal is lost.



Elizabeth Bergland

