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,

A. A. Haslam - Submission
Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 (Qld)
Planning and Environment Court Costs

I am a private resident of the Sunshine Coast living in the UNESCO Noosa Biosphere Reserve. I am vitally interested in the sustainability of Noosa Biosphere, and it is my view that this can only be achieved through a strong planning scheme with the required sustainability values built in. The Noosa Plan, is such a plan, formulated with meaningful community consultation, incorporation of community views and expectations, and has wide community support and we should be able to defend it.

Therefore I strongly oppose the changes proposed in the Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment (SPOLA) Bill in relation to the awarding of costs in the Planning and Environment Court (P&E Court).

Planning decisions have a direct impact on individuals and the whole community in respect to their amenity and lifestyle, it is essential that they be able to defend bad decisions in respect to development approvals which are outside of adopted planning schemes, or appeals against good planning decisions. Under these amendment proposals individuals could run the risk of being made personally bankrupt, or not making representations because of financial risk.

The ability for individuals to be able to defend appeals which might overturn the communities plan has been an accepted part of the Planning and Appeals process for in excess of 20 years and has served the community well.

I therefore respectfully request that the State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee reject the present position of the Bill in respect of P&E Court costs and require amendments which would continue to allow individuals and the community involvement in the Planning and Environment Court process.

Yours sincerely

Anthony A Haslam