

State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee submission re : SPOLA (Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 12 Friday, 12 October 2012 3:41:14 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I feel compelled to send in a submission with regards to Section 6 of the planned legislation changes.

As a resident of Noosa for many years, I have seen a number of developments that would have spelled disaster for the sustainability of our community and the amenity of residents, blocked by the combined efforts of Council, various community groups and/or interested individuals, who were prepared to fight the matter with valid arguments in the courts. I am very concerned that this will be no longer possible with the planned changes regarding the Awarding of costs, the losing party having to pay the winners' costs as well, which may run into sums that risk bankrupting everyone involved. This would provide an unfair advantage to the developers who, in most cases, have by far the deeper pockets. The end result ,should that go through, would be an intolerable loss of democratic rights, in particular the right to stand up and speak up for your community. I cannot believe that you, as a Liberal government, would want to bring about such an outcome, so please delete or amend Section 6 of the above-mentioned legislation.

Yours truly Jutta Dyrchs-Jansen