

From: [REDACTED]
To: [State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012
Date: Friday, 12 October 2012 4:07:52 PM

October 17, 2012 **Submission Sustainable
Planning Act and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012**

Dear Sir

The proposed changes to the to the Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 whilst laudable in their intent to reduce costs and improve the efficiency of government also pose a serious threat to democracy and transparency in government.

To provide mayors with sole decision making powers without consultation with elected councillors smacks of a dictatorship. The community expects local government decisions to reflect the entitlements and needs of the community. To cede this power to a single person for the determination of budgets and the direction of the CEO and senior council officers is dangerous and has the potential to foster an abuse of power.

Communities have a come a long way through consultation and formal Community Plans and we will not abandon this right to have a say in our own community and environment. To attempt to keep the community in ignorance by actions such as failing to publish Local Law changes and not recording communications between a mayor and CEO lacks the transparency of governance that a true democracy demands and to which we are entitled.

The Redlands has a Community Plan in place through to 2030 and we expect it to be the filter through which collaborative council decisions are made. Through this plan we expect reasoned planning decisions that ensure development is appropriate by preserving the essence and nature of our community. We expect that population is managed in a sustainable manner that promotes local businesses and economic development. We expect that our community continues to have an ongoing awareness of planning issues and continues to make a contribution throughout the planning process, to ensure that our wishes and entitlements are not over-ridden by greed. This can only be done by working with our councillors and allowing them to represent us by their vote in council.

We also expect that when contentious environmental issues arise that we are able to legally challenge them through the courts by paying our own costs without fear of the imposition of the costs of other parties. Again any change in this area would steal the democratic process from individuals and community groups.

The people of Queensland through their local councils have a right to have their say in how they live and many of the proposed changes in the above legislation will remove this right. This is an assault on the democratic process.

Regards

Margaret Hardy

