

From: [REDACTED]
To: [State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission to State Planning and Environment legislation changes- SPOLA Bill
Date: Friday, 12 October 2012 4:50:09 PM

Mara Ellis
[REDACTED]

To: The Research Director

State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

Parliament House

Corner George and Alice Streets

BRISBANE QLD 4000,

Dear Sir, Madam,

Firstly, I wish to convey my dissatisfaction in the level of community engagement conducted with respect to the raft of legislative changes to the Sustainable Planning Act. It is important that the broader community have the opportunity to be involved in decision making. This basic democratic principle has not been demonstrated in this case as Queensland citizens have been provided a pitifully short time to digest the impact of these changes and provide comment.

The changes detailed in the SPOLA Bill, reportedly aimed at reducing 'green tape' are potentially a 'green light' for inappropriate and non-sustainable development in Queensland, the likes of which we have not witnessed since the 1970's. I oppose the changes to Section 457 (costs follow the rule) as I believe Community organizations and individuals will be discouraged from appealing to the Planning and Environment Court for fear that a crippling costs order might be made. The bill will deny all but the most wealthy the ability to take cases before the Queensland Planning and Environment Court.

I also oppose the removal of Structure Plans and Masterplanning requirements, as this would impact on Council's planning scheme and jeopardize their power to promote sustainable 'green' development on the Sunshine Coast. These Masterplans are currently developed in consultation with local residents and rate payers. The Caloundra South fiasco is still fresh in the minds of Sunshine Coast tax payers. Thankyou for your consideration.

Yours Faithfully
Mara Ellis