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From: Ian Donald [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 October 2012 5:25 PM
To: State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Subject: Submission on the Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 (Qld)

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State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee Queensland Parliament

Submission on the Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 (Qld)

Dear Committee,

We strongly urge you NOT TO REPEAL THE NO COST PROVISIONS for the Environment Court or other courts and regulatory operations.

This is the only legal mechanism where the people of Queensland have an opportunity to have their say.

By removing the no costs structure in this court system it will leave the community at risk where multi-million dollar organisations will be able to abuse the system with long drawn out legal cases with the unspoken threat of legal costs being awarded if lost. This will cause

1. no cases to be brought against developers
2. intimidation of the community and councils
3. the rights of Queenslanders to be trodden on

If communities or individuals take action against development plans that do not financially benefit themselves and are instigated in the public interest, they should not be forced to pay the (often inflated) legal fees of the commercial developers in such cases.

Making communities or individuals pay commercial interests their cost if the legal challenge is lost will eliminate any involvement in the public interest cases and greatly undermine the purpose of having any sustainable planning provisions in the legislation.

Regards

Ian & Judi Donald

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