

MEDIA RELEASE

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DEVELOPING MONEY PITS

Community Alliance SA Inc wants Planning Minister John Rau MP, to answer one question:

“What is the Government doing to ensure the planning process does not preference big developers, shut out real community participation, and shift costs of unsustainable developments onto the community?”

“The community should not be paying for badly designed and planned developments like Mt Barker, Buckland Park, St Clair and Gawler, nor for white elephants”, said Tom Matthews, President of Community Alliance SA. “South Australians can’t afford to fund development money pits.”

“It is far better to have smart growth, guided by an agreed plan with an open, participative process, where the community and all interested parties have helped develop the plan, and know what to expect,” said Dr Rob Crocker, Secretary of Community Alliance SA. “The current process is back-to-front and flawed. It alienates everyone affected by it, and they vote.”

Will it cost South Australians \$500 million, or more, to fund Mt Barker infrastructure alone? Who will foot the bill for sewerage, roads, schools, hospitals, and other essential services for vast green-field developments like Buckland Park, Gawler and Mt Barker? The developers, or communities excluded from planning processes?

“These huge costs would take years for communities—who opposed these developments—to pay for,” said Mr Matthews. “South Australian’s are already struggling with increased living costs and taxes, we can’t afford these planning ‘decisions’ and policies.”

Community Alliance SA calls on the Minister to put the people back into planning, outlaw political donations from developers, and reform South Australia’s planning and development regime.

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