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Engaging for Reform



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## **Planning Minister Rau MUST GO**

Community Alliance SA, representing more than 30 community organisations concerned about Planning and Development, calls on Premier Weatherill to immediately remove the Planning Minister from his portfolio.

This call follows Rau's announcement to strip Councils of any powers to assess any development applications over 4 levels in height. Also, Rau's last minute announcement, on the last day that Parliament sat until the election next March, to disenfranchise the Adelaide City Council by removing the requirement of the Development Assessment Commission to consult with the ACC when assessing developments over \$10 million.

"Mr Rau just doesn't care about how the community feels and seemingly wants to act as a law unto himself to appease developers," said Mr Tom Matthews, Community Alliance SA's President.

"It is almost unbelievable the way this Minister operates. Not only is he undemocratic, backing away from previous commitments to consult the community, he has seriously undermined the ongoing review of this State's planning system by the government's own Expert Panel led by Brian Hayes QC. He has lost our confidence in his ability to hold the Planning portfolio", said Mr Matthews.

"The Minister's surprise decisions have also angered the Local Government Association, which said Mr Rau's actions to curb the powers of ACC and inner-city councils was 'further evidence of the state government's *announce and defend* attitude'.

"Community Alliance SA agrees with the LGA Acting President, Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg, who says Mr Rau has ensured 'communities will be disenfranchised because councils will no longer be formally involved in the planning processes for their neighbourhoods'.

"What the Alliance is having real trouble in understanding," Mr Matthews said, "is that Premier Weatherill – who preaches community engagement and even set up a community consultation unit within his own portfolio – allows this to happen right under his nose."

"How can the Government set up the Expert Panel review, then completely bypass the independent experts and push through major changes? In our opinion, the Expert Panel was established as a smoke screen," said Mr Matthews.

'The Alliance wants to see the back end of the Planning Minister and we call on the Premier to **move him out now**, reverse his decisions and allow the Expert Panel to do its job,' he said.

### **Contact**

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