

Engaging for Reform



Community Alliance SA Inc  
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Hon John Rau MP  
Deputy Premier & Minister for Planning  
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Dear Minister,

The Community Alliance SA is the peak body representing resident and community groups from across Adelaide and other areas of South Australia. The aim of the Community Alliance is to "*Put the people back into planning and development in SA*". We recognise that the built environment has a considerable impact on the well-being of its citizens and consider that planning should be a democratic process. The Community Alliance supports planning reform and played an active part in the Expert Panel's consultation process through focus groups and submissions, and in lobbying for better outcomes from a community perspective during the passage of the new legislation.

The Discussion Paper on Local Heritage was received by most community groups with an unreasonably short time frame for comments. That date was extended twice by DPTI. It was still considered inadequate as it does not take into account the need for community groups and other organisations to consult and receive feedback from their members.

At a meeting of the Community Alliance last week, members resolved "*That the Community Alliance writes to the Planning Minister requesting a 6 month consultation period for the Local Heritage Discussion Paper*". We understand other organisations have also requested more time to debate such an important topic. The Community Alliance also participated in DPTI's one on one meeting but found it generated more questions than answers.

Local heritage provides character and identity to South Australia's towns and suburbs and is of great significance to local communities now and in the future. This is an important issue and, if we are to "put heritage on new foundations" as recommended by the Expert Panel on Planning Reform, needs the widest possible consultation.

The Community Alliance therefore requests that the timeframe for responding to the discussion paper be extended by at least six months in accordance with our members' resolution. We also request that DPTI hold information sessions during that time to inform organisations on the details of any proposed changes.

Yours,

*Helen Wilmore*

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