



13PLN0560

**Government  
of South Australia**

10 July 2013

Mr Tom Matthews  
President  
Community Alliance SA Inc  
PO Box 520  
GOODWOOD SA 5034

Deputy Premier  
Attorney-General  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Industrial Relations  
Minister for Business Services  
and Consumers

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Adelaide SA 5000

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Adelaide SA 5001  
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Dear Mr Matthews

I write in response to your letter about the *Development (Interim Development Control) Amendment Bill 2013* (Interim Bill) and the *Development (Development Plan Amendments) (Notification) Amendment Bill 2013* (Notification Bill) introduced by the Hon Mark Parnell MLC.

I thank your association for taking the time to write to me on these important matters.

I note that both the Interim Bill and the Notification Bill have now passed the Legislative Council, however I indicate that, at this time, the Government maintains its opposition to both Bills.

For the Interim Bill, the Government appreciates the intent, but cannot agree to an amendment of this nature without also solving the issue of delays in the rezoning process in the planning system. These delays in the rezoning process are among the reasons why Ministers have, from time to time, used the interim development control powers in ways which the Hon Mark Parnell MLC seeks to prevent through this Bill.

The Government has indicated a willingness to discuss this issue further with the Hon Mark Parnell MLC and any other interested members and to look at how these issues could be taken forward in the context of a more holistic solution to rezoning delays and the issue of better zoning policy consistency. We are also working with the Expert Panel on Planning Reform, that I announced recently, to explore these issues further.

With regard to the Notification Bill, while the Government appreciates the need for more transparency and openness in planning matters, the proposed Bill will create significant workload and resource issues for the Government, and more particularly for Councils. For example, the City of Onkaparinga has approximately 160,000 residents. The administrative and resource issues for any Council-wide DPAs or large scale Ministerial DPAs, such as the Windfarms or Regulated Trees DPAs that covered many Council areas, but not the entire State, cannot be understated.

DPA's should not be seen in isolation of strategic planning processes and where extensive community engagement has occurred at a strategic level, further consultation on detailed policy may result in consultation "burn-out" at a local level.

Given the wide-ranging review of the planning system currently being undertaken by the Expert Panel on Planning Reform, it is appropriate that this matter be referred to the Panel for consideration and the Bill deferred pending the outcome of the review.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Rau', with a large loop at the end.

**John Rau**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Planning



Community Alliance SA Inc  
PO Box 520  
Goodwood, SA 5034  
**ABN: 56 505 508 381**

19<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Hon JR Rau, MP  
Deputy Premier and  
Minister for Planning  
Parliament House  
GPO Box 464  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister,

As you know, the Community Alliance SA represents many community and resident groups, and we are all concerned with the inadequate provision of information and genuine community participation in the current planning system.

We appreciate that your Government is currently conducting a review of the planning system. However, we believe that changes can be made to improve the system prior to the conclusion of the review.

We previously wrote to the MLCs, to ask them to support Mark Parnell's Interim Development Control Amendment Bill, which was passed in the Legislative Council in March of this year. We would now like to ask you and the Labour Party to support the second Amendment Bill that Mark Parnell has introduced.

Currently, you as the Planning Minister, or a council, can release a draft DPA without directly notifying the owners or neighbours in an area to be rezoned. Although a notice has to be put in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper, we don't think this is good enough.

The public only has a short period of time to have a say on the proposal. Valuable time is lost if the news has to filter through to them. Most members of the public are not familiar with the planning and development process, the information they are given can be difficult to understand, and they need time to formulate an adequate response.

Mark Parnell's *Development (Development Plan Amendments) (Notification) Amendment Bill 2013* would help to address this, by requiring owners, residents and neighbours of adjoining properties to be directly notified of the proposed changes.

We believe this would be a small but very important change, and would go some way towards restoring transparency and fixing the appalling provision of information and consultation processes currently in the State's planning system.

The Community Alliance SA would very much like you to support this Amendment Bill.

We would be happy to meet with you, to talk about our concerns with the current planning system, or to talk with you by phone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

**Tom Matthews**, President  
0429 337 453  
tom19917@bigpond.com

**Dr Rob Crocker**, Secretary  
0409 351 221  
Robert.Crocker@unisa.edu.au

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The Community Alliance SA would very much like you to support this Amendment Bill.

As always, we would be happy to let you know more about our group and its concerns, to talk with you by phone, or to meet with you.

Thank you for your consideration.

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[www.communityalliancesa.org.au](http://www.communityalliancesa.org.au)