

Hon JR Rau, MP
Deputy Premier and
Minister for Planning
Parliament House
GPO Box 464
ADELAIDE SA 5001
enfield@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you as representatives of the Community Alliance SA, an umbrella organisation comprising thirty resident and community groups from across the state. We represent a very diverse range of groups all concerned with issues surrounding planning and development. More information on our organisation and its aims can be found in the attached document.

We are writing to request a meeting with yourself regarding the processes involved in planning and development in this state, which we feel requires urgent attention.

In particular, we would welcome the chance to discuss with you:

- The recently announced inquiry into the planning system and the desire of our many members to ensure that principles of greater transparency, accountability and genuine consultation result from any such enquiry and subsequent reforms.
- The use of the Interim Development Control section of the Development Act to introduce draft Development Plan Amendments (DPAs) on an interim basis, which we feel is against the intention of the present Act. This process has resulted repeatedly in considerable community anger and dissatisfaction at what is often perceived to be unaccountable and secretive decision making, where community views are not taken into consideration except in a 'technical' manner 'after the fact'.
- Ways in which the present system can be made more accountable, transparent and involve genuine community consultation.

We would very much like to meet with you regarding these matters as soon as possible. We will be writing a similar letter requesting a meeting with the Premier, and also with your new Expert Panel on Planning Reform.

Yours sincerely,

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

and Dr Helen Wilmore, Treasurer
8522 3019 email: Helenp.wilmore@bigpond.com

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE SA Inc. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**The aim of the Community Alliance SA is
'To put the people back into planning and development' in South Australia.**

The goals of the Community Alliance SA

We are an umbrella organisation representing resident and community groups around South Australia dedicated to 'Putting the People back into Planning and Development'. We are striving for a planning and development process that guarantees genuine community engagement.

Community Alliance SA is calling for reform based on a genuine partnership between communities, government and the development sector.

Our goal is the establishment of a planning and development system that engages all parties in an open, transparent and accountable process from the initial design concept through to implementation. This process should create well conceived, regulated, sustainable, planned, designed and implemented developments.

Background and formation of the Community Alliance SA

There have been significant adverse and damaging planning decisions made by the SA Labour Government. Examples include those at St Clair, Cheltenham, Mount Barker, Gawler and now the huge Mayfield and Gouger Street developments in the City. There are many others.

At Mount Barker, there were some 540 submissions to the Government about the development proposal and the hearings took five days to complete. Despite the quality of the submissions by well informed residents, who overwhelmingly opposed the development, the Government chose to ignore the lot. So much for "consultation"!

There are many such examples of communities around the State not being listened to and having planning decisions forced onto them.

A number of concerned community groups met in June 2011 to discuss this major issue and a decision was taken to establish an umbrella organisation that would have the clout and authority to lobby Government to change the planning laws, to enable genuine community consultation and participation.

A constitution was approved by the 15 founding member groups, and the Alliance became incorporated and was launched in November 2011, in a community event at which Senator Nick Xenophon and Mark Parnell MLC gave speeches.

The objectives of the Community Alliance SA

1. To campaign for ethical and transparent governance including the provision of genuine information to communities.
2. To lobby for reform of planning, development and related legislation to ensure participative decision making with real community engagement.
3. To lobby for sufficient resources for reform of compliance and enforcement of relevant legislation and regulations and procedures.
4. To act as an advocate for residents associations and community groups in South Australia

Current members of the Community Alliance SA

Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association Inc.
Adelaide Showground Area Residents Group Inc.
Australian Civic Trust Inc.
Burnside Residents Association
Callington Community Waste Water Committee
Campbelltown Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc.
Cheltenham Park Residents Association Inc.
Citizens Initiated Referenda Australia Inc.
Coastal Ecology Protection Group Inc.
Concerned Owners Group
Friends of the City of Unley Society Inc.
Gawler Region Community Forum Inc.
Gawler Environment & Heritage Association Inc.
Kensington Residents Association Inc.
Mt Barker and District Residents' Association Inc.
No Dam In Brownhill Creek Action Group
Norwood Residents Association Inc.
Prospect Residents Association Inc.
Residents Inner North West Adelaide Inc.
River Lakes & Coorong Action Group Inc.
St Clair Reserve Ratepayers Association Inc.
Save Our Gulf Coalition
Save Our State Forest
Save Our Suburbs Adelaide Inc.
South Australian Federation of Residents and Ratepayers Associations Inc.
South-West City Residents Association
Stop Urban Sprawl
Walkerville Residents Association Inc.
Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association Inc.

Contact details and further information

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Dr Rob Crocker, Secretary
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