



Ordinary Council

MAYORAL MINUTE

Business Paper

date of meeting: Wednesday 4 August 2021

location: Via Skype

time: 5:30pm

Community Vision

A sustainable high quality of life for all

Community Mission

Building the future together
People Place Health Education Technology

Council's Corporate Values

- ★ Sustainability
- ★ Excellence in Service Delivery
- ★ Consultation and Communication
- ★ Openness and Accountability
- ★ Community Advocacy

Community Themes

- ★ Leadership and Governance
- ★ Your Community Life
- ★ Your Business and Industry
- ★ Your Natural and Built Environment

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 4 August 2021

MAYORAL MINUTE

Items of Business

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Item: 07.01

Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE - INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS REFORMS

Mayor, Peta Pinson

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Call on the NSW Government to withdraw the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021 (the Bill) from the NSW Parliament.**
- 2. Call on the NSW Government to undertake further consultation with the local government sector on any proposed reforms to the infrastructure contributions system.**
- 3. Call on the NSW Government to de-couple the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal led review of the rate peg to include population growth from the infrastructure contributions reforms.**
- 4. Request that the Chief Executive Officer write to:**
 - the Member for Port Macquarie, the Hon Leslie Williams MP;**
 - the Member for Oxley, the Hon Melinda Pavey MP;**
 - the Premier of NSW, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP;**
 - the Treasurer of NSW, the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP;**
 - the Minister for Planning & Public Spaces, the Hon Rob Stokes MP;**
 - the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Shelley Hancock MP;****seeking them to withdraw the Bill.**
- 5. Request the Chief Executive Officer write to:**
 - the Shadow Treasurer, the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC;**
 - the Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Mr Paul Scully MP;**
 - the Shadow Minister for Local Government, Mr Greg Warren MP;****seeking their support in securing the withdrawal of the Bill from the NSW Parliament and outlining council's concerns with the Bill.**
- 6. Affirm its support to LGNSW and requests LGNSW continue advocating on our behalf to protect local government from any amendments to infrastructure contributions which leaves councils and communities exposed to expending ratepayer funds on new infrastructure made necessary by new development, currently the responsibility of developers.**

Discussion

I am calling on Councillors to support our local government sector's campaign on infrastructure contributions reforms.

The NSW Government introduced the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021 into Parliament on 22 June 2021.

The Bill was subsequently referred on 24 June 2021 to the Upper House Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment for inquiry and report by 10 August 2021.

Councils support efforts to reduce complexity, cut red tape and improve transparency and equity.

However, implementation of the reforms will have far reaching financial implications for our council and community that are unknown at this stage and there is concern that we may be worse off under the reforms.

These reforms may force our council to delay or completely remove projects from our expenditure plan with a detrimental impact not only on community wellbeing and participation in civic life, but also crucially on job creation.

Councils need to be in a position to deliver quality infrastructure and open spaces if they are to attract homebuyers, housing and commercial development and business investment and these reforms put this at risk.

Councils also object to the Government's decision to tie reform of the rate peg to cater for population growth to reductions in infrastructure contributions. Reform of the rate peg is required independent of changes to contributions. This presents a concerning cost shift from developers onto local government and ratepayers.

It is premature to push forward with this legislation while so much of the infrastructure reform agenda remains unknown.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) has been advocating this position on our behalf and has met with the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces the Hon Rob Stokes MP on several occasions to stress that Councils and their communities must *not* be worse off under any reforms.

LGNSW has made a submission to the parliamentary inquiry, opposing the passage of the Bill and on Friday, 16 July 2021, LGNSW President, Linda Scott, spoke at the inquiry hearing alongside other local government representatives to present a united front on this issue.

LGNSW will continue its advocacy efforts on our behalf and is asking Councils in NSW to add their voice in calling on the NSW Government to withdraw the Bill from the NSW Parliament.

Attachments

Nil