Hon Stephan Knoll MP  
Minister for Planning  
GPO Box 1533  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  

Dear Minister  

RE: Planning and Design Code Changes  

I have been contacted by Mr Graham Seppelt of Oakbank regarding the draft Planning and Design Code.  

Mr Seppelt has raised a number of concerns in relation to the Code and the process leading to the adoption of the Code. I enclose Mr Seppelt's correspondence.  

I would appreciate your advice in relation to the important matters Mr Seppelt has raised to assist in my response to his enquiry.  

Yours sincerely  

DAN CREGAN MP  
Member for Kavel  

24 February 2020  

Enc.
Dear Mr Cregan

State Planning Commission – Draft Planning and Design Code

I note the deferral of the implementation of the planning code to the end of September, while further critical elements are addressed.

That is a good thing.

However, the time for consultation has not been extended beyond 28 February.

So how can that work if the department hides behind its blanket and does not publish its findings for each interested party to review and make further comment?

That is a bad thing.

So the overarching recommendations that I made to you on 7 February 2020, and about which I have received no constructive comment other than an acknowledgement of receipt, are still more urgently appropriate now, and which I repeat below.

Overarching Recommendations

There are many interest groups, all wanting their point of view to be the most relevant.

But what we haven’t seen is a public statement from the Planning Department summarising in succinct everyday English what each of the main points of view are and how they have been embraced in the Draft Planning Code.

How on earth are we ordinary people supposed to understand 3000 pages of documents with their various overlays without them being summarised.

I therefore request you to submit to Minister Knoll that:

- There has been insufficient time and commitment by the Department to have each interest group understand all of the other significant points of view;
- Those points of view have not adequately been published;
- Nor have the summary reasons been given by the Planning Department as to why specific contentious points should be adopted;
- There is not the vital need to approve Phase 2 of the Planning Code for implementation by 30 June 2020. We are talking about a Code that will guide the State for the next 50 years.
- Until the Online Information System is made to work easily for the average reader, it is not a valuable resource for us to comprehend;
- The Planning Department needs to step back and weigh up all alternate views and not just its own;
Inconsistencies evident within the legal framework need to be fixed up before adoption of the Code.

And above all, consult, explain, consult, explain, conclude.

Only then, legislate.

Yours Sincerely

Graham Seppelt