Dear Minister Teague and Minister Knoll

I have serious concerns about the processes undertaken to date; and strongly object to the proposed changes to the new Planning and Design Code. The new Code will enable developers and their cronies to totally decimate the culture and ambiance of our beautiful State.

Regarding the processes undertaken, there has been insufficient consultation with residents and members of the public; and the public DPTI website is difficult to use and full of bureaucratic language.

In respect to the changes, even though the new Code was initiated under the previous Government, here is an opportunity for you to show some gumption and put a stop to changes which will affect the lives of so many. For example, the Country Living zone in the Adelaide Hills Council was incorporated to avoid excessive subdivision and to retain the heritage and beautiful green leafy environment for a sustainable community. What studies have you done on the impact to native flora and fauna in the proposed Code. We are reminded daily of the devastating loss of wildlife with the recent bushfires and yet your Government is pushing ahead with this ridiculous new Planning Code.

In respect to the Historic Areas and Contributory Items in Heritage Areas, your limited “consultation” claims that these are protected, but how can that be when massive high and medium rise developments adjacent to them, will be permitted causing overshadowing and overlooking of the historic properties. Are you actually aware of what is being proposed, or letting the short-term views of Developers run the agenda?

1. What is your Government’s position and vision on sustainable development when you allow so much carving up of larger allotments. Creating “hard surfaces” causes a warmer environment, i.e. global warming.
2. Why does SA have to follow other States and their Planning Codes, which have reportedly failed miserably? Where is SA’s vision?
3. Why standardize the Planning Code, when the desirability of our State and townships are due to their uniqueness?
4. Is it to be “tick box” development applications that robots or computer systems can approve, no human shall touch them?
5. Why remove well developed and efficient Desired Character Statements, when they are essential for guidance in retaining character in popular tourist destinations? By the way, what does your Tourism Minister think of the new Code?
6. Has the Environment Protection Authority been asked to comment on Code and the potential of thousands of infill developments where the infrastructure may be insufficient to support them, the loss of native vegetation, significant trees, etc.?
7. Why have you removed the “non-complying developments” concept; setbacks from creeks; restriction of advertising material size?
8. What is the impact on employment, both for those planning officers in Councils and in DPTI?

This issue raises so many more questions, which I understand have been put to you and
your Department, but which have not received any responses. I hope that you will consider your constituents’ views and the impact that the new Code will have on them.

Regards
Shirley Trebilcock

Sent from Mail for Windows 10