Re Proposed New Planning System

To Whom It May Concern,

I have followed with interest discussion on the proposed new Planning CODE, and attended a presentation on the same. We run a business in an area very dependent upon the retention of the maximum amount of heritage. Hahndorf is noted Australia wide for it’s historic buildings and character. Any diminution of that would result in a loss of income to many traders in the Main Street.

The proposed CODE would be enacted with NO TRANSPRENCY. Even assessment of a planning proposal by some anonymous ‘heritage architect’ will be of little benefit to preservation of items of importance to the community. COMMUNITY INPUT is essential, as is the situation throughout Europe, Nth America and even South Africa, there is widespread notification of any planned proposal for heritage buildings.

Our Heritage can only be preserved by adequate, tailored ‘Heritage Legislation’, not by an adjunct to Development Legislation, which this new planning CODE is.

There needs to be a rethink on the implementation of the new planning system. While some of the ideas may seem plausible from a planning perspective, and the process may be expedited by an on-line system, there is potential for significant damage to be done to communities.

We all live in a community, whether it is small or large, but each community is different. Any attempt to bring consistency in planning over such diversity of communities, with such disparity of situations (open plain, hills face, water catchment, heritage zones) will, fail, and so it should.

On a local basis, Councils know their communities, and they have had many years of consultation and determination. When they make mistakes, the communities can hold them to account, as it should be. This cannot be done with a centralised, non-personalized system.

The CODE needs much more consultation.

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Regards
South Australia