

Attachment 12 - CEO ltr to Stokes MP - Delayed implementation of Development Consents



11 June 2019

Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Reference File: 19/131444 (A71923-H)

The Hon. Rob Stokes MP
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister,

SUBJECT Historical approvals not meeting community expectations

On 28 May 2019, the elected Council of the City of the Blue Mountains formally carried a Notice of Motion regarding the delayed implementation of development consents. The full notice of motion is as follows:

That the Council writes to the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Robert Stokes, to seek regulatory reform of the NSW planning system to address the delayed implementation of development consents, which presently permit development some 30 or more years after the consent was secured, without obligation to review against contemporary planning and environmental standards or the views of the present community.

[Minute No. 167]

By way of background, the Blue Mountains community has been concerned to observe extensive clearing associated with a Flora and Fauna Park at 10 Great Western Highway, Wentworth Falls, on the basis of a development consent issued in 1989 and secured with physical commencement in 1992. No development of the site had occurred since that time and it had been understood that the development would not proceed. Under NSW planning legislation, however, once a development consent has been secured it can be implemented at any time in the future.

Where there are undue delays, in this case some 30 years, development should be required to adhere to present planning standards and the community's expectation for sustainable development. There is a need to provide for a sunset provision or the like on consents to avoid unreasonable delays in implementation of development consents and development not reasonably meeting contemporary environmental standards.

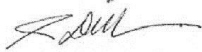
I strongly urge you to consider regulatory reform in this space so as to promote sustainable development and the community's confidence in the planning and development system.

2 Civic Place/ Locked Bag1005/ Katoomba NSW 2780 / T 02 4780 5000 / F 02 4780 5555
E council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au ABN 62 699 520 223

The city within
a world heritage
national park

If you or your office would like further details regarding the development given focus above, please contact Alex Williams, Executive Principal – Planning, on 02 4780 5772.

Yours faithfully



ROSEMARY DILLON
Chief Executive Officer