

“Hands off our LEPs” campaign



Information Sheet-Community Consultation

Did you know?

- It took 8 years and extensive community consultation to develop the Blue Mountains award-winning LEP 2005 but the State government's imposed timetable compromises any meaningful community consultation on the new LEP prior to its public exhibition. Putting in a submission is not 'consultation'.
- Council Business papers consistently state Council's commitment to meaningful stakeholder input into the drafting of the new LEP and to embracing local community perspectives throughout the process. This is not happening and Council has conceded that it's unlikely to happen. This isn't good enough for such a major change which will have a huge impact on all residents and the character of the Blue Mountains.
- Proposed changes to NSW's planning laws (the 'White Paper' currently on exhibition) means that residents' only opportunity to have a say about development in their communities will be at the LEP-making stage. This is why it is so important to get our new LEP right.
- The period of exhibition of our new LEP is proposed to be only 2 months, and is currently scheduled to take place in November and December this year. Council's established practice is a 3 month consultation period and other Councils have exhibited their draft Standard Instrument LEPs for 3 months (e.g. Blacktown). Our new LEP is complex because of the additional requirement to protect and manage a World Heritage Area. Apart from the terrible timing of the exhibition, 2 months is not enough time for residents to consider the draft LEP which has such wide social, economic and environmental ramifications.

What you can do

- **Sign our petition** to the Minister of Planning, the Hon. Brad Hazzard, demanding a minimum 3 month exhibition period.
- **Write/email** Roza Sage, MP for Blue Mountains, asking that she make strong representations on behalf of residents to the Minister of Planning to extend the exhibition period. Email: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au. Write to: Roza Sage, 132 Macquarie Road, Springwood NSW 2777.
- **Write** to Blue Mountains City Council demanding more information and meaningful community consultation about the new LEP. Address your letter to the General Manager, Blue Mountains City Council, Locked Bag 1005, Katoomba, NSW 2780.
- Refer to the relevant points above when writing your letters/emails.
- **Sign up** for email bulletins at the public meeting or on bmcs@bluemountains.org.au