



Office of the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

Mr Lachlan Garland, President

13/05864

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

PO Box 29

WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782

Dear Mr Garland

I refer to your letter to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure on behalf of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc concerning the new planning system public exhibition period. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As you are aware, the White Paper sets out the detail in the first major overhaul of the planning system since 1979, representing a smarter, more straightforward way of providing for best practice planning outcomes in NSW. Evidence based decision making is at the centre of the new planning system, which will reduce the costs, time delays and uncertainty associated with planning in the interests of the community, businesses and councils.

The White Paper represents the Government's direction for the new planning system, and there are a range of opportunities for individuals and groups to suggest improvements now that it has been released. These include making formal submissions and participating in face to face consultation events. The White Paper and draft planning legislation are currently on exhibition and stakeholders have the opportunity to provide submissions until 28 June 2013.

Other opportunities for consultation include online discussion forums, stakeholder meetings and regional and metropolitan discussion sessions. The regional and metropolitan discussion sessions are aimed at providing local government, the community and stakeholders with a chance to discuss issues in the White Paper and provide direct feedback.

Changes to how community participation, strategic planning, development assessment and infrastructure provision occur will improve planning outcomes across the board. The White Paper and new legislation have been developed to replace our existing, dated planning system with a performance based framework. The new planning system will enable the delivery of housing, jobs, infrastructure and sustainable development, with comprehensive upfront and ongoing community consultation.

Cultural change is also a key objective of the new planning system geared at up-skilling planners and promoting a delivery culture across the profession. The Department is committed to working with professionals and local government to promote this change. To achieve this, ongoing consultation beyond the White Paper exhibition and strong partnerships will be required.

Transitioning into the new planning system will require the input of the community, industry and local government. Developing the final vision of how the planning system outlined in the White Paper will operate in practice and forming the strategic plans which will become the cornerstone of the new planning system are our next objectives. We welcome your ideas on what the finished product may look like.

Thank you for your interest in the planning reforms. We encourage you to have your say during the White Paper exhibition period and to keep in touch through the Department of Planning and Infrastructure website.

Yours sincerely



Craig Baumann MP
Parliamentary Secretary

1 May 13

