



NIRAG Inc. (Y1992101)

Hon Secretary: R Dearden

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NORTHERN ILLAWARRA RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

ABN 60 858 038 414

26 February 2022

Ms Paulina Wythes
Director, Planning Legislative Reform
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022 Parramatta NSW 2124

Subject: DISCUSSION PAPER DECEMBER 2021 –
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO A LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN (LEP)

NIRAG has become aware that the proposed changes to the way amendments to a Local Environment Plan (LEP) are made will not be in the best interest of the community because it would:

1. take away control of rezoning applications from the local Council and community, who is most affected by some of these decisions
2. favour property developers enabling a more favourable framework to change land use zonings.
3. give developers a right of appeal similar to that which exists in relation to Development Applications that would also not be in the general community interest.
4. result in there being no appeal rights for objectors to the rezoning.

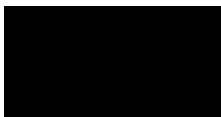
NIRAG supports the concerns of Wollongong City Council which has resolved (21/2/2022) that

- The removal of Council's initial consideration of Planning Proposals is not supported
- The introduction of Land and Environment Court Appeal rights is not supported
- The Gateway step (DPE review) should not be removed as proposed as the removal of any oversight by the Department may result in inconsistency and uncertainty in the process.

If the proposed reforms are adopted Councils should retain control of the rezoning application and assessment process and furthermore:

1. There must be merits appeal rights for Objectors in respect of Category 2 and 3 Rezoning Applications.
2. Arrangements must be made to improve community consultation about proposed rezoning.

Yours sincerely



Ross Dearden
Hon Secretary, NIRAG