



New Planning for NSW

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act of 1979 was the culmination of a comprehensive review, aiming to set a world standard of best practice. That much of it remains relevant is not surprising, but the challenge is to update the legislation in the light of 30 years' experience of its use by planning authorities, by government and by the community. A wider than usual panel of practitioners will put forward their succinct answers, leaving ample time to discuss their viewpoints and yours.

When: Tuesday, 27th September 2011

Time: 4.00-7.00pm

Venue: Sydney Masonic Centre, Castlereagh & Goulburn St's, Northcott Room, Level 5

Chairman: Dr Bob Solomon, Chairman AIUS

Speakers

Terry Byrnes, Byrnes and Associates

"The Baby and the Bathwater". First hand experience as architect and planner during the life of the Land and Environment Court prompts Terry to advise restraint in any urge to wholesale reform and to apply his forensic talent to offer a variety of insights into what might be.

Aaron Gadiel, Chief Executive, Urban Task Force

Aaron brings high qualifications in law and commerce and some years as a senior adviser to government to a strong development focus in planning. He will speak initially on the limitations of strategic planning, appeal rights for rezoning applicants and development assessment processes.

Tony Recsei, President, Save Our Suburbs community group

"Planning from a community perspective". Dr Recsei's role of environmental consultant is based on training in chemistry, engineering and waste management. He has worked on the decontamination of major sites in Sydney. He will speak about the need for community consultation, scrutiny of subordinate legislation and awareness of other jurisdictions.

Mary-Lynne Taylor is a solicitor with Bartier Perry and has taught planning law at Sydney University for 20 years. She inaugurated the panel system in NSW with the first IHAP and is presently a member of four panels. Mary-Lynne argues for the retention of the panel system with decision-making powers: Councillors have plenty to do otherwise. Third party appeals could displace Class 4 judicial reviews, which are expensive and often unhelpful.

Michael Neustein, architect and urban planner, believes the NSW planning system has become a growth industry, stifling creativity, enforcing mediocrity and impeding economic development without community benefit. He argues that we should consider a major cultural shift by discouraging legal action to thwart development but encouraging involvement in making plans for metropolitan improvement.

Percy Allan is a former Head of NSW Treasury and an expert on local government finance. Planning for Sydney presently offers a choice between urban consolidation and urban sprawl, with further growth requiring costly public transit construction. A third alternative, the expansion of regional cities, is denied by lack of infrastructure to attract business and jobs.

Break for refreshments about 5.30pm