

## **Media Alert: Launch of the Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW**

**When: Thursday September 18th, 2014 - 1.00pm until 2.00pm**

**Where: Tree of Knowledge, Sydney Domain, immediately behind NSW Parliament House**

**What: Launch of Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW**

Following the revelations made by the ICAC investigations throughout 2013 and 2014, a range of community organisations have developed a **Community Charter for Good Planning**. The Charter is aimed at raising the standard of decision-making in NSW.

The Charter has been endorsed by several peak associations including the Better Planning Network, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, The National Trust of Australia (NSW), the Total Environment Centre, Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development, Australia ICOMOS (International Committee of Monuments and Sites), Our Land Our Water Our Future, National Parks Association of NSW, as well as a growing number of community organisations.

**Speakers:** Corinne Fisher (BPN), Kate Smolski (NCC), Kevin Evans (NPA), Jeff Angel (TEC), Ian Carroll OAM, (National Trust), Geoff Turnbull (Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development), Holly Creenaune (Our Land Our Water Our Future).

**Confirmed Attendees:** Luke Foley, ALP Spokesperson for Planning, David Shoebridge, Greens NSW Spokesperson on Planning, Alex Greenwich, Member for Sydney.

Better Planning Network Spokesperson Corinne Fisher said: *'This Charter represents the bottom line for planning which will deliver fair outcomes for the community, for future generations and for the environment. We want all candidates in the March 2015 NSW Election to make a commitment that they will support the Charter.'*

Nature Conservation Council CEO Kate Smolski said: *'The existing planning system is broken. It gives approvals to damaging major projects, like open cut coal mines on the edge of communities, in conflict with the best scientific evidence. It also green-lights smaller projects which cumulatively degrade the environment. We are proud to support this Charter which would protect people and the environment over industry profit.'*

National Trust (NSW) President Ian Carroll OAM said: *'The Charter is a step forward in properly valuing our heritage so that our sense of place, our sense of identity and our pride is maintained and nourished in our modern and functional world.'*

National Parks Association CEO Kevin Evans said: *'This Charter recognises that National Parks are only the tip of the iceberg, without protecting biodiversity throughout the landscape our parks will suffer.'*

Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development spokesperson Geoff Turnbull said: *'It is important for inner city residents that their voice is recognised as being equal to that of the development industry. This is especially so for those who are on welfare and in public housing. We support the Charter and its respect for local communities.'*

Total Environment Centre CEO Jeff Angel said: *'It's time to put planning on a firm footing that respects the environment, delivers best practice development consistent with sustainability and one in which the community can have confidence.'*

*'This is a powerful coming together of a wide range of community organisations.'* said Ms Fisher. *'Planning was a key issue in the 2011 election. It will be an even bigger issue in the 2015 election!'*

*'Following the launch we will be asking the candidates in every electorate in NSW to consider endorsing the Charter and help move NSW into a new era of better planning which is corruption free and based on ecologically sustainable development.'*

**For more information contact:**

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