

ALP and Greens Endorse Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW

In a major development for the upcoming March 2015 NSW elections, both the NSW ALP and the Greens have endorsed the community-led initiative, **Planning for People: A Community Charter for Good Planning**.

The Charter was launched in the Domain today by a coalition of community groups, including the National Trust of Australia (NSW), the Nature Conservation Council NSW, the Better Planning Network, the National Parks Association of NSW, the Total Environment Centre, the Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development and the Our Land Our Water Our Future campaign.

The Charter calls for a corruption-free planning system that is built on the principles of ecologically sustainable development and effective community participation.

At the launch, Shadow Minister for Planning and the Environment, The Hon. Luke Foley, announced that the ALP had endorsed the Charter and that he had himself visited the website thecommunitycharter.org and signed the Charter on behalf of the Labor Party.

Likewise, Greens planning spokesperson, Mr David Shoebridge MLC, said he was pleased to announce his party's endorsement of the Charter and hoped that it would become the 'greenprint' for planning in the next term of Government.

The NSW Minister for Planning and the Environment, The Hon. Pru Goward, sent her apologies to the launch.

All candidates in the upcoming 2015 NSW Elections will be asked to endorse the Charter and their response will be documented on thecommunitycharter.org website.

Spokesperson Corinne Fisher said: *'Today was a really important step in gaining the endorsement of both the ALP and Greens political parties. We are now urging the NSW Liberals to sign up.'*

'I think it is very clear from the latest round of ICAC investigations in which we have heard stories of property developers literally handing out cash in envelopes to election candidates that the community desperately needs to have its confidence restored in the political and planning systems.'

'The Charter would restore the right of all people to appeal planning decisions. It is recognised by the ICAC that the right to appeal the merits of a decision is an important anti-corruption mechanism.' said Ms Fisher

'Ever since the 1970s, when the community demanded new laws, the development industry has been encouraging the government of the day to make approvals quicker and to give the community less rights to appeal.'

'Well, the people are speaking up again today. We want more rights not less. We want environmental protection, not over-development. We want genuine community participation. And we don't want corruption!'

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Ian Carroll OAM, President National Trust of Australia (NSW); Holly Creenaune, Coordinator Our Land Our Water Our Future; Jeff Angel, CEO Total Environment Centre; Geoff Turnbull, Spokesperson Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development; Kevin Evans, CEO, National Parks Association of NSW; Corinne Fisher, Spokesperson Planning for People Community Charter Coalition & Convenor Better Planning Network; Kate Smolski, CEO, Nature Conservation Council of NSW



Mr David Shoebridge MLC, NSW Greens Spokesperson for Planning with Corinne Fisher, Spokesperson Planning for People Community Charter Coalition and Convenor Better Planning Network.



The Hon. Luke Foley, MLC, Shadow Minister for Planning and the Environment with Corinne Fisher, Spokesperson Planning for People Community Charter Coalition and Convenor Better Planning Network.