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# RALLY IN SUPPORT OF MOs

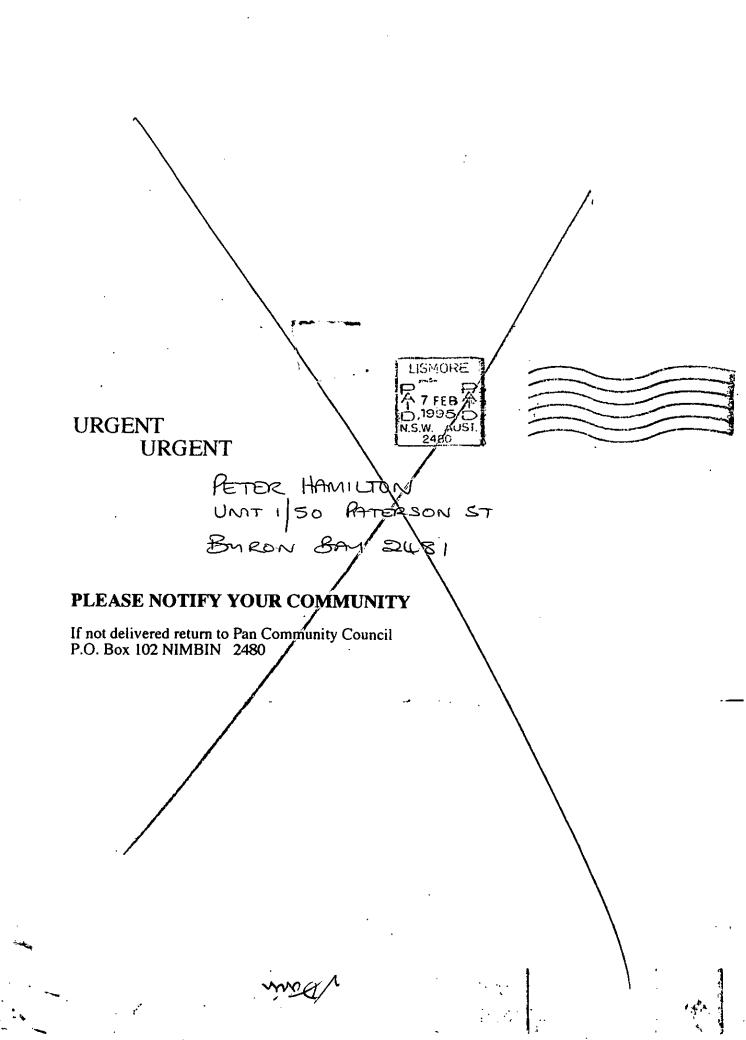
Come join the RALLY against the State Government members responsible for abolishing MOs

ROBERT WEBSTER and BILL RIXON will be at the Manchester Unity Building (Cnr Molesworth & Woodlark Sts) Lismore

THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY 1995 at 12.45pm

> We want MOs back. Come and demonstrate.

Organised by Pan Community Council Ph. 891 692 for more details



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# 10-84

# Social atlas for Lismore

By DEBBIE SCHIPP

The Lismore City Council has produced a social atlas for the city.

The atlas, compiled from figures collected in the 1991 census, presents information on the key demographic, social and economic characteristics of Lismore's population.

The document contains figures about the make-up of Lismore's population — its age, its family structure, where they live, whether they rent, what they earn, what they do.

There are also details about how people get to work, their religion and their ethnic background in the 72 sets sets of maps, graphs and commentary.

The council's chief planner, Nick Juradowitch said the atlas would be an invaluable resource for the council in helping identify where community services and facilities were needed, and where resources should be allocated.

"It will be a valuable planning tool," he said.

He said the atlas would be useful to more than the just the council.

Developers, community groups, and government departments could all benefit from the information it contained.

"Local businesses may also find it helpful for identifying potential markets and developing marketing strategies," Mr Juradowitch said.

He said it was the first time the council had had such a resource at its fingertips.

"Lismore is probably among the first provincial cities to have a social atlas," he said.

Copies the atlas will be available to the public from Monday for \$25.

Among the details in the atlas are figures showing Lismore's annual growth rate is 2.24 per cent, lower than the Richmond-Tweed average of 3.29 per cent, but higher than the rate for NSW overall of 1.19 per cent.

The age of the population is slightly below that for NSW overall in the 25-44-year-old age group.

down 50 per cent. "Unless we get exceptional or recover from." \*\*\* BONUS BUCKS \*\*\* SPORTS CLUB MONDAY 7.30 to 8.30 PM \*\*\* TWO GREAT CLUBS THE THE **RSL SPORTS CLUB RSL CLUB** OLIVER AVENUE. MARKET STREET. LISMORE GOONELLABAH ON THE RIVERBANK ON THE HILL 21 2434 • 21 2435 25 2320 - 25 2294 INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS BISTRO DAILY NOON & 6 DIR NIGHT **S6000** AND IT COULD BE YOUR NUMBER THAT COMES OUT IN OUR ... MEMBERS' LUCKY BADGE DRAW

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## MO MEETING

## ORGANISED BY PAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The National Party Minister for Planning, Robert Webster has recently decided to drop the state wide MO policy, the implications of this are very serious. Webster's decision means that local Councils will have up until the 1st February 1995 to put an MO policy into their Local Environment Plan. Many Councils are likely not to do this, in which case there will not be the possibility of more MOs or possibly no expansion of existing communities in the local government area. Other Councils may choose to have an MO policy, but put very stringent conditions on their approval e.g. limiting MOs to a restricted area.

This meeting will consider strategies for the State and Local Government elections and any other items MOs consider appropriate, such Lismore City Council's bushfire management plan.

PLACE: THE CHANNON HALL TIME: 3PM (AFTER THE MARKET).

DATE: SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD, WE WANT A BIG ROLL UP

Come prepared for your community to make a contribution to the "fighting fund", or make a contribution directly to Pan Community Council, Summerland Credit Union account no. 1367.

Contact: Diana Roberts 891 648 or Simon Clough 886 217 for more information



PO BOX 102, NIMBIN 2480



PETER HAMILTON
UNIT 1/50 PATERSON ST
BYRON BAY 2481



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## **Department of School Education**

NORTH COAST REGION

**MEMORANDUM TO SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY** 

101 Molesworth Street Lismore, N.S.W.

Box 422, P.O. Lismore N.S.W. 2480

Our reference:

NC 94/0015

Your reference:

Telephone:Lismore 21 1701 (066) Fax: Lismore 22 2972 (066)

Alex Scott (066) 211 799

22nd February 1994

#### LINES OF COMMUNICATION

The Parents and Citizens Association, North Coast Region, together with the North Coast Region Department of School Education, appreciate the value in parents have ready access to schools and the opportunity to be aware of the purposes and direction of the schools. In addition, parents need to understand the processes whereby they can make contact with their school to either provide information or seek advice on a range of issues.

The attached memorandum has been prepared by the P&C Association to provide a guide to parents and community members and to assist them in understanding the lines of communication.

This circular is not intended to explain the procedures for the resolution of disputes or grievances. The P&C have recently liaised with the Department and have agreed on procedures to resolve grievances. That document will be issued quite separately.

SEPTEMBER, 1994

PAN-COMMUNITY COUNCIL P.O. BOX 102, NIMBIN 2480

## RGREEMENTS WITH LISMORE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING INSPECTION OF MO PROPERTIES

A number of Pan Com representatives meet with Malcolm Scott (who is to be responsible for the inspections) and the Chief Planner Nick Jeradowitch.

To allay any fears of discrimination against MOs, it was agreed that the MO inspections would only take place after Council's adoption of a Plan of Management for a city wide inspection of all development.

#### Without Prejudice Inspection

It was agreed that this means that no written notes or photos will be placed on an official Council file except;

- a) where it is an application for "Modification of Conditions" of the DA, and:
- b) where the parties agree and confirm that material should be put on file.

It was agreed that every care be taken to ensure that the privacy of communities be respected and that information collected for planning purposes not be available to other departments of the Council or other Councils or Government Departments.

#### The People and the Task

Malcolm Scott and Scott Turner will be carrying out the inspections. Their particular task will be to see that the MO has complied with the conditions of consent in the development application (DA). This means they will not be looking at roads, sewerage, bushfire precautions, section 94 payments etc. unless they are specifically part of the conditions of consent.

#### Building Issues

The number of buildings will be checked to see that they comply with the DA and that a building application (BA) has been lodged. If there are more houses that the DA allows then the community will be asked to apply for an amendment of the consent.

Where a building has been erected on a DA approved building site but no BA has been issued the owner will be asked to apply for registration under "Building Registration" in the Local Government Act.

A cluster of buildings (including temporary dwellings) will be looked at in terms of the expanded house provisions of SEPP15. Such a cluster of buildings may be considered as one house where appropriate.

#### S.94 Issues

If a condition of consent requires the upgrading of an external road and before this work is carried out it is upgraded by others (eg for a new subdivision) then Council considers that the S.94 conditions have been met.

#### Variation to Conditions of DA Consent

Where agreement is reached to amend a condition of the DA consent this will be done under section 102 of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act. Council will not require fees to be paid for the variation of consent.

It should be noted that Council cannot apply a higher standard than that which was in force when they gave approval for the development.

#### Time Limit for Compliance

Where there is an agreement to vary a DA condition of consent this may require that certain things be done. The agreement may set down a time limit within which those things are done.

#### Caravans and Temporary Dwellings

It was agreed that the use of a caravan by a family member of a household does n't need approval. Use of temporary dwellings as a whole it was agreed was a question for the Building Department of Council.

It was noted that there is great variation in the form and stages of MO development, both from an environmental and social view point and that this variation should be respected as a chosen "family lifestyle"

Council anticipates that the inspections may take up to early next year with a report in June 1995.

If you have any further questions regarding council's inspections contact **Peter Hamilton**, on 858 648, He'll be very happy to help you.

### MULTIPLE OCCUPANCIES AND THE RATING QUESTION

You will be aware that the issue of rates paid by MO communities has been a source for concern amongst certain sections of the community, particularly in the Nimbin district where there is a high concentration of MO development. The rating system is seen as inequitable as 20 households on an MO can pay the same rate as one house on a similar piece of land. The conclusion is then drawn that MOs are not paying their fair contribution towards Council's provision of services within the area. Obviously, this perceived problem has wider ramifications when one considers other multiple occupancy settlement of land such as caravan parks, mobile home parks, dual residential properties, farming properties with a worker cottage, flats, boarding houses, aged retirement units, etc. There is also the issue of organisations and institutions exempt from rates such as Commonwealth and State government departments, banking institutions, religious organisations, churches and schools.

As rating is currently based on land value the only way I can see to address this issue would be to either look at placing a higher land value on land that has multiple occupancy of any form or to instigate what is the equivalent of a Thatcher poll tax. In relation to MO communities, the land value does increase once the land is settled and the more houses, the higher the value. My purpose in writing is not to attempt to provide solutions to rating anomalies but rather to give a clearer understanding of the situation relating to MO communities.

Over the past few months I have been doing some research into multiple occupancy developments and their rating contributions. I concentrated my research on the Nimbin district within the Lismore City Council boundary. There are 28 MOs within this area and they constitute just under one third of the district population. (609 people live on these MOs and Council's population estimate for the area using ABS data is 1890). From my research one thing is quite clear, each MO is different. Some MOs are on large parcels of land yet are sparsely populated, others are on large parcels of land and are densely populated. The land value ranges from \$659 per ha to \$6643 per ha. Property sizes range from 10ha to 565ha. Using ABS data and rating information provided by Council I have been able to establish that the average residential rate in the Nimbin district is \$170 per head of population.

Residents of one third of MO communities pay more than this. Whilst I haven't done an assessment of the contribution per dwelling on multiple occupancies, many residents live in an expanded family situation so one could expect the number of residents per dwelling to be higher than

the average. However, I do know that MO dwellers pay as much as \$960 per head of population down to as little as \$23 per head of population on Tuntable Falls Co-op.

As 40% of MO dwellers in the Nimbin district live at Tuntable Falls Co-op it's worth considering Tuntable a little more closely. Firstly, at no cost to Council, Tuntable has provided a preschool, a primary school, a community hall, a shop and postal outlet, a youth club and fire fighting equipment. All of these are maintained by the Coop and made available to the wider community. In addition, as with all MO development, Tuntable are responsible for the upkeep and construction of their own internal road network. They place a greatly reduced burden on the local road network as many residents on Tuntable pool transport. They also help to maintain Council owned roads. In addition, Tuntable paid half of the cost of sealing public road from the community to Newton Drive at considerable expense. Interestingly enough, Tuntable is the largest land owner within the Lismore council area but the land owned by Tuntable has a very low value per hectare.

MOs are generally found to be utilising land that has little value in the traditional sense. Much of the land on MOs is not viable for large scale residential or economic farming practices. Land use is therefore devoted to agriculture, forestry, wilderness, parkland, recreation etc. Many MO communities are gradually rehabilitating their land, eliminating weeds and making a voluntary contribution to reforestation. This is of particular importance where stream banks are concerned leading to reduced soil erosion and reduced flooding impact downstream. Such land care and repair will be of benefit to future generations. Incidentally, the Far North Coast County Council, of which I am a member, are happy with the weed control that has been undertaken by MO communities and feel the situation has improved considerably over the past 5 years.

As MO land is not sub-divided in any way and is generally found on traditionally low value land it has a lower rating value. This would seem to be appropriate given that one of the principal aims of MO development is to assist the pooling of resources, particularly where low incomes are involved, and to enable economic development of a wide range of communal rural living opportunities. There is no other form of land title that facilitates such low cost development. It is interesting to note that Lismore Council's community profile shows that the Nimbin district has a higher than State average proportion of owner occupancy (69.3%) and yet has the highest unemployment rate (34.4%) and the lowest income levels of any area in the local government area. Almost half of the

population have income levels of less than \$15,000pa. One could conclude that multiple occupancy has been successful in its aims.

On a personal level I would like to give an account of how my own community contributes to services in the Nimbin area and reduces our impact on services provided. We are one of the larger communities with 24 residents, 9 households on 58ha. We maintain over 2km of internal roads, excluding driveways. This costs us upwards of \$5000 per year. We pool transport regularly. We generally use only two cars to transport our 11 school age children to the school bus and back. One person collects the mail for all of us each day whilst doing the bus run. We share car ownership. We provide our own childcare. We have recreation facilities used by the wider community. We are the driving force behind our local fire brigade holding most of the office bearing positions. We have received an excellent report from the local weeds officer on the weed status of our property.

Internally my community shares many resources and community facilities. We have built our own houses and we are on solar power. Within the wider community we are currently on the management committees of the Nimbin Hall where we have put in many, many hours assisting in the restoration, the local pre-school, the neighbourhood centre and the environment centre. We are also involved in the community in many other ways on a voluntary basis. Over the years we have provided accommodation for homeless teenagers. We contribute to the provision of community infrastructure and services through the taxes we pay, both direct and indirect, as well as through rates which are \$1265 per year. Two members are small business owners. All in all, we believe that we are making a valuable contribution to society as a whole and paying our way. I am most MO dwellers would feel the same.

Some members of the Nimbin. community, namely the Ratepayers & Progress Association, are calling for a moratorium on further MO development until the issue of rating is addressed. Whilst I don't support a moratorium on development I have supported looking into the rating issue generally and perhaps taking up some of these issues with the Minister for Local Government. However, as a result of the research I have undertaken I believe that this could be a very costly and complex exercise as the full financial impact of MO development would have to be taken into consideration. I also believe that even if we resolved the rating issue those opposing MO development would simply find something else to use against us.

It is my hope that this article has left you better informed and if anyone would like more specific details in relation to rating, I would be only too happy to provide them.

Diana Roberts, Lismore City Councillor, Resident of Pinpuna Community. Ph 891 529 (W) 891 648(H) Fax 891 130

## MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY INSPECTION AMNESTY

#### COUNCIL INSPECTS PINPUNA

In August Pinpuna was one of the first communities to undergo an inspection by Lismore City Council. Pinpuna is a medium sized community located at Stoney Chute, near Nimbin, approved under IDO 40. prior to the introduction of SEPP 15. We were visited by Malcolm Scott and John Hampton, both from Council's Planning Dept. John came because it was the first Council inspection but it is likely that Malcolm will conduct future inspections on his own. One resident of every house on Pinpuna came to the meeting which was of great benefit.

The procedure followed by Pinpuna and Council was to go through our development consent point by point, discussing how we had complied with each condition and whether there were any we felt were inappropriate. This process provided us with an opportunity to request that certain conditions placed upon us be deleted or amended. The planning staff were supportive of the following conditions being changed:

1. Deletion of the clause which restricts the number of residents to average 5.2 per dwelling. Whilst we will be unlikely to ever exceed this density we feel it's inappropriate and discriminatory.

- 2. All of the conditions relating to bushfire protection will be removed and replaced with a clause that reads something like: "A bushfire management plan is to be drawn up and approved by Council's Fire Control Officer." This is because of changes to the Bushfire Act and conditions that are likely to be placed on all landowners. At this stage we have no clear idea what will be required in a bushfire management plan. We understand that guidelines for the preparation of such are currently being drawn up by Council staff.
- 3. Certain anomalies will be removed from our development consent. These relate to issues that should be considered when individual building applications are lodged, not as conditions of development consent.
- 4. A condition stating that we can't remove or lop trees of any species without Council approval will be removed.

One other condition relating to the condition of our road access has to be clarified with the engineering dept. To establish we had complied with the condition relating to noxious weed control we provided Council with a report on the weed status of Pinpuna from the Far North Coast County Council. This showed clearly that we had satisfied this condition.

Prior to coming out Malcolm had gone through Council's records to establish which nominated building sites had received building approval. We then took Malcolm and John on an inspection of the whole property to identify each house site, location of roads etc. I believe they were both genuinely interested in our relationship with each other and with the land. our land management practices and our building techniques and left impressed. The process was easy and friendly and we are awaiting follow up contact confirming the details.



## MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY \_\_ A DINOSAUR IN OUR TIME?

### Community Forum Friday, October 28, 7pm, Nimbin Hall

Organised by Nimbin Ethical Development Assoc

Putting the arguments:
Members of the Pan-Community Council
and the

Nimbin Ratepayers Assoc
Issues to be debated include rating, the efficacy of MO development, illegal development
(and no doubt bushfire hazard and weeds)

Everyone welcome. Come and have your input.

PETER HAMILTON

UNIT 1 50 PATERSON ST

BURON BAY 2481

If not claimed please return to

P.O. Box 102 Nimbin 2480



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felso Bruce B.

# New wildlife refuge go ahead

A new wildlife refuge is to be created near the village of Dorroughby. The refuge will be known

as the Holy Goat Wildlife Refuge and covers an area of nine hectares of private land. Member for Ballina, Don

Page, said the owners of the land intended to maintain and regenerate the natural

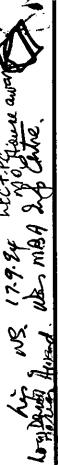
habitat.

The existing one hectare of regenerating forest will be weeded and increased in size

GRAFTON Ju-10.94 O Expension of app. Mo we house (under the shed) Is sues. O Holdeborial Bld eggs Community Bld are are are areillary bld + OK O Cases on appeal, under SEPRIS.

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#### HOMESHOW HOUSE LISMORE CITY COUNCIL MEDIUM DENSITY DESIGN AWARDS

Council is currently seeking nominations for the first annual Homeshow House - Lismore City Council Medium Density Design Awards to be presented in December 1994.

Awards to be presented in December 1994. The awards, which are jointly sponsored by Homeshow House and Lismore City Council, will recognise excellence in two separate categories:

 duptexes (development of two separate houses on a single lot);
and

 developments of three or more units (for example residential flat buildings, town houses and villa).
 Medium density developments formally completed in 1993 and

formally completed in 1993 and 1994 are eligible for entry and Council invites nominations from the general public, developers, building designers and architects. Nomination forms are available from Council's offices 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah and Homeshow House, cnr. Holland and Carson Streets, Goonellabah. Written nominations will also be accepted.

after 15th November 1994.

For further information regarding the awards please contact Jemina Dunn of Council's Planning Services Orision on 250546 or Julie Memory of Homeshow House on 251355.

Nominations will not be accepted

E Carson, Larson+ Mayor. Cowiel meeting 2 Arch 1. Planer Minhie gete Ellan jons feartens Ken Turbola Purpora, franks. 10-2 for not stadio Illawarra Regional Office 84 Crown Street Wollongong 2500

P.O. Box 61 Wollongong East 2500

Telephone (042) 26 8120

**Botany Bay Regional Office** 

23 Fréderick Street Rockdale 2216

P.O. Box 207 Rockdale 2216

Telephone (02) 597 1233

Hunter and Central Coast Regional Office

20 Auckland Street Newcastle 2300

P.O. Box 5135B Newcastle West 2302

Telephone (049) 26 2566

South-East Regional Office

263 Crawford Street Queanbeyan 2620

Telephone (062) 97 6911

legal advice can be obtained from the following places:

Environmental Defender's Office

Suite 82, 280 Pitt Street Sydney 2000

Telephone: (02) 261 3599 Fax: 267 7548

Legal Aid Commission of NSW

Daking House, Rawson Place Sydney 2000

Telephone: (02) 219 5000

There are many suburban branches and country branches at Gosford, Lismore, Newcastle, Orange,

Tamworth, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong.

Redfern Legal Centre

73 Pitt Street Redfern 2016 Telephone: (02) 698 7277

Marrickville Legal Centre

9 Robert Street Marrickville 2204

Telephone: (02) 559 2899

The Land and Environment Court

Level 6, 388 George Street Sydney 2000

Telephone: (02) 228 8388

Office of the Commissioners of Inquiry

for Environment and Planning

Ll 13, Wynyard House, 301 George Street Sydney 2000

Telephone: (02) 29 2904

Other brochures in this series are:

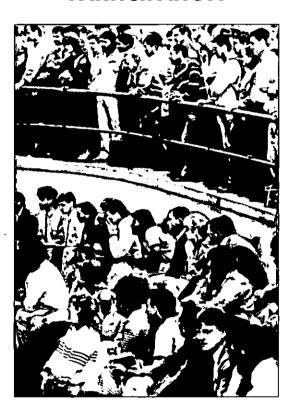
Department of Planning

Environmental Planning in NSW

Rural Planning

Protecting our Environment

## CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION



#### Introduction

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EPA Act) gives both rights and responsibilities to people in the community, councils, developers and public authorities. The system is only successful if each group is aware of its own and each other's rights and responsibilities under the Act.

People have the right to be informed and consulted in relation to a number of developments, to make submissions to Commissions of Inquiry, to attend public hearings, to make appeals to the Land and Environment Court and to use the Court to remedy any breaches of the Act.

The planning system provides opportunities for people to learn about planning proposals, to be consulted and to inform the decision makers of their views. The two main areas of planning control are: environmental plans (hereafter plans) and development control by councils.

#### **Environmental**

## Planning Instruments

State environmental planning policies, regional environmental plans and local environmental plans have legal force in establishing how land is used. State environmental planning policies are prepared by the Department of Planning. They address matters of state-wide significance such as major economic development, protection of the environment and housing for the aged or disabled.

Regional environmental plans are also prepared by the Department of Planning. They deal with matters important in a specific region such as land use, development, conservation of historic buildings and transport.

local environmental plans are prepared by local councils. These plans are concerned with development control in a local area. They allocate land for particular purposes such as homes, shops, factories and open space. They can also protect and conserve the local heritage and natural environment. (For more information

on plans see the brochure on Environmental Planning in NSW). There are two ways to get information on these policies and plans: through advertisements and exhibitions.

Under the EPA Act councils must place advertisements in local newspapers giving details of:

- the council's intention to prepare a draft local environmental plan;
- the exhibition of environmental studies; and
- the aims, objectives, policies and strategies of a draft local plan.

Under the Act the Department of Planning must also advertise the exhibition of a draft regional environmental plan so that people can have the opportunity to make submissions on it.

All draft local environmental plans and draft regional environmental plans must be exhibited.

Exhibitions of local environmental studies and plans will take place at the council and other locations at the council's discretion, e.g. libraries and community centres. Draft regional environmental studies and plans will be on display at the Department of Planning's head office or relevant regional offices, councils in the region and libraries, etc.

## How to Participate in Plan Making

At the time a draft plan is exhibited, people are invited to make written submissions providing their comments. Forms may be provided at the exhibition. These should be filled in and sent to the council or the Department of Planning, depending on which body has exhibited the plan.

If forms are not available, people may write a letter to the council if it's a local plan and to the Department if it's a regional plan or state policy. They may also wish to speak or write to their local councillor or local member about the plan or policy.

At its discretion, the council can arrange a public hearing to consider submissions on a draft local plan (section 68).

#### **Development Applications**

The council is responsible for making a decision on a development application according to the policies established in the local environmental plan, state policies, regional plans and the provisions of the EPA Act. In exceptional cases the Minister will make the decision on the development application. (Section 101 and section 88(3)).

#### How to Participate in the Process

#### - Development Applications:

If someone wants to develop an area for some purpose, e.g. office, housing, etc. then they must abide by the policies in the local environmental plan. This plan is available for inspection at the council. It generally has two components: a map which indicates zones and a written section which outlines special conditions and matters that council must consider. There may also be a 'Development Control Plan' containing more detailed issues and standards. In some cases councils must advertise that they have received a development application. In others it is up to the individual council to notify residents that a development application has been lodged.

Section 90 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 details 'matters for consideration' by a consent authority i.e. the authority such as the council which makes a decision on a development application. Some of the things considered are the policies in any plan, the effect of the development on surrounding areas and the amount of traffic likely to be generated by the development.

#### - Advertised Development Applications:

Some developments have to be advertised. These are developments which are of a significant nature but do not require an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The council must advise people by sending notices to those likely to be affected by the proposal, advertising in newspapers and exhibiting the proposal for a fourteen day period.

People can make submissions about the proposed development either by filling in a form or writing a letter.

The council may advertise other proposals if it wishes.

## - Designated Development Applications:

Designated development is development that may be listed in a local plan or in Schedule 3 of the regulation to the EPA Act. (You can inspect the regulation at your local council or at the Department of Planning's offices). This type of development requires an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The EIS must be lodged with the development application and it must be advertised.

The council must send written notices to people likely to be affected by the proposal, advertise the exhibition locations in newspapers and exhibit the EIS for not less than thirty days.

When either the council or the Minister has made a decision, written notice will be sent to the applicant and to people who made submissions. They will also be notified about their appeal rights. People who object to the proposal have a right to appeal if it is approved: this is called a third party (a class one) appeal. The applicant has twelve months and the objector twenty eight days to appeal against the decision.

## Legal Rights

The NSW planning system gives people a number of legal rights against decisions made by planning authorities.

People have the right to appeal to the land and Environment Court, on a form obtained at the Office of the Court or from the local court house.

#### Who can Appeal?

The person or persons who lodged the proposal in the first place, i.e. the applicant, can appeal against a council's decision. They have twelve months in which to do so. Such appeals may be against the conditions that a council has imposed on approving the proposal; against the refusal of the proposal or if council did not make a decision on the application within forty days. Council also has the right to appeal. A third party (i.e. not the applicant or the council) does not have a right of appeal except for designated development.

Anyone who has made a written objection to a designated development application during the exhibition process can lodge an appeal within twenty-eight days of the council's notification of the decision.

There is no right of appeal on the contents of the plan once it has been approved by the Minister or on development applications where the decision has been made by the Minister under section 89 and 101 of the Act

Anyone can apply to the land and Environment Court for an order to correct or alter a breach of the EPA Act. A breach of the Act may involve instances where the procedures in the Act have not been followed correctly or where a person carries out development either without approval or which is inconsistent with the terms of approval given for the application.

If you wish to apply to the court for such an order you should seek legal advice from a solicitor, from your nearest legal aid service or from the Environmental Defender's Office (some useful addresses are listed at the end of this brochure).

## A Request for a Public Inquiry

A public inquiry can be established:

- by the Minister, on any matter relating to the operation of the Act or an environmental plan. It can also be on the environmental aspects of a designated development or a development that may significantly affect the environment and for which an EIS is prepared under Part V of the Act (section 119);
- by the Director of the Department, at his/her discretion, on any matter related to a draft regional plan (section 49 (1) (a)).

Under section 101 of the Act a development application may be called in for determination by the Minister. The council and the applicant can require the Minister to call a public inquiry. In the case of designated development, any person who made a submission in relation to the development application can also call for a public inquiry to be held.

The intention to hold an inquiry, the subject matter and other details will be advertised in the Government Gazette and newspapers by the Commission of Inquiry. (The Government Gazette is available from, or can be inspected at, the Government Information Service, 55 Hunter Street, SYDNEY - phone 221 3622.)

public hearings because of their confidential nature. For information about the Heritage Council, conservation provisions of the Heritage Act and appeal rights, see the brochure, The Heritage Act 1977, produced by the Heritage Council of New South Wales.

Some items of public inquiries may be withdrawn from

#### Information on

#### **Environmental Planning**

local councils can provide information on zonings, planning regulations, building and development standards, planning policies and proposals.

The Department of Planning can provide information on planning at regional and state levels. It holds exhibitions and displays and produces publications. The following are the locations of the Department's offices:

#### **Head Office**

175 Liverpool Street Sydney 2000 Box 3927 G.P.O. Sydney 2001 Telephone (02) 391 2000

Western Sydney Regional Office 31-39 Macquarie Street Parramatta 2150 P.O. Box 404 Parramatta 2150 Telephone (02) 689 8111

Northern Regional Office 49 Victoria Street Grafton 2460 P.O. Box 6 Grafton 2460 Telephone (066) 42 0622