

IAN COHEN MLC
THE GREENS
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
MACQUARIE STREET
SYDNEY NSW 2000



MEDIA RELEASE

16 MAY 1997

Green Success on Multiple Occupancy

Green MLC Ian Cohen successfully passed a motion through the NSW Legislative Council today calling on the Government to reinstate SEPP 15 (relating to Multiple Occupancy) as a matter of urgency. Despite strong opposition from the Coalition spokesperson in the debate the Hon Patricia Forsythe the motion passed without opposition in the House.

"This success has brought the reintroduction of multiple occupancies on a statewide basis a step closer to fruition. The opposing arguments were insignificant against the overwhelming social imperative for reinstatement," Ian Cohen said.

"The pressure is now on the Carr Government to act. There is an expectation in the community that people should have the right to choose their own lifestyle. This is particularly appropriate when it is ecologically sustainable, socially cohesive and an effective way to promote low cost high quality housing which fulfills a clear need in the community. Ian Cohen said

Opposition by local government is a politically motivated attempt to hold the numbers for continued National Party ascendancy in the region. It seeks to ignore the emerging demographics of the Northern Rivers region. This back to the 50's mentality does nothing for the thousands of people seeking affordable housing and encourages community disharmony. Multiple occupancies are an effective tool for social cohesion.

"There was an unequivocal pre-election promise by the then ALP opposition in the run up to the last NSW election that multiple occupancies would be reinstated. The Government must honour that promise," Ian Cohen said.

CHOICE IN LIFESTYLES SUPPORTED
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A Carr Labor Government will legislate to re-introduce State Planning powers which will allow North Coast residents to continue to live in Multiple Occupancies (MOs), Janelle Saffin ALP endorsed Legislative Council Candidate said today.

Ms Saffin said the Fahey Government's Planning and Housing Minister Mr Webster, recently repealed legislation which provided for MO sites to be established in NSW.

"The Fahey Government's action is to be condemned because it was based on the report of a consultant whose task didn't include consultation with the people affected by his action", Ms. Saffin said.

"It's a typical knee-jerk reaction of City based Liberals to pressure from the National Party rump", Ms. Saffin said.

Ms Saffin said that the consultant who reported on the legislation under which Multiple Occupancy exist (State Environment Planning Policy No. 15-SEPP 15) had recommended public exhibition of the proposed changes and a two year period of transition for the changes.

"That at least would have allowed progressive Local Government Councils time to get their own regulations in place to fill the void," Ms. Saffin said.

"The Fahey Government was not even prepared to do that.

Ms Saffin said MOs may not be everybody's lifestyle choice, but it has been chosen by a significant number of North Coast people.

"The Minister and the State Government should be encouraging low cost choices for housing, not knocking them out," Ms. Saffin said.

"I reject the absurd argument that, because up to 80% of all MOs are situated on the North Coast, it is not really a State responsibility."

"If it was sincere in this argument the Fahey Government could have negotiated with local Councils so that they did provide for MOs in their Local Environment Plans."

Ms. Saffin said that a recent Lismore City Council report into MOs in the area showed there were no major problems encountered with MOs in the area which were not capable of easy solution.

"The Fahey Government should support diversity for families, not outlaw it. The NSW International Year of the Family Committee found that the NSW citizens wanted to live in a society that is tolerant of diversity," Ms Saffin said.

For information please contact Janelle Saffin on 066-222019

23.11.94

End

ATTENTION. ~~WARRANDAH~~
PETER HAMILTON

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DO
25/1/94
Jenelle told Simon what she sees
is the "lifestyle choice" & ought to write on this
ground below

(FAX, OK) if
Send copy Carr's letter, & promised
by Simon to Trevor Wilson

He will send evening support
letter to Carr.

Add cover letter explaining how
came, this is to me.

Final strategy (preferred) is to
send copy of letter to Carr, with
cover letter - for info & support
then conveying of support to
Carr & Tim Allen (Shadow as pre)

① Set letter from Jenelle (as dict) to forward
support letter to Carr

② Send Helene's letter to Tracy & Tim for
similar letter re "hidden values" of MO.

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ATTACHMENT "D"
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