



The Carlton Residents Association Inc.

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3rd July 2015

Mr Anthony Walsh, Research and Legislation Officer,
Environment and Planning Committee,
Parliament House,
Spring Street, Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Mr Walsh

SUBJECT: Planning and Environment (Recognising Objectors) Bill 2015

This submission is presented on behalf of the Carlton Residents' Association [CRA]; it has been prepared and endorsed by the Planning Group of the Association.

While the CRA agrees that community participation in decision-making often leads to better planning results, and that the number of objectors to a planning proposal can provide important insights into the potential effects of a proposal, the CRA is concerned:

- that the legislation has been drafted to focus exclusively on the significant *social* effects of a proposal, and
- that the Minister has not taken the opportunity to address those clauses in planning schemes that remove third party notification and appeal rights.

In the experience of the CRA, most of the really significant impacts of development proposals are environmental and not social. The loss of sunlight to public spaces, the degrading of heritage precincts and the lack of attention to ESD objectives [energy and water saving measures] all fall within the environmental realm. These are the issues that have been of most concern to the Association in recent years. We do not understand why the proposed legislation avoids making specific reference to **environmental** effects.

The increasing tendency of Planning Authorities to trigger the exemption provisions that exist within planning schemes [provisions that REDUCE the opportunity for communities to participate in decision-making] works against the laudable objectives of this legislation. We do not understand why the Government is not addressing this serious anomaly.

We do hope that the Environment and Planning Committee will bring forward Amendments to this Bill that address these important matters. The Association would have difficulty in attending any public hearing in relation to this Bill; however, if there are issues that require clarification, I would be happy to elaborate.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted]
Ewan O'gilvy [On behalf of the Association] [Redacted]
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