

05 MAY 2011

Our Ref: JCH:tw
33127

Your Ref:

3 May 2011

The Chairman
The Honourable Brian Ellis
MLC Standing Committee on Environmental and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

BY EMAIL: counsel@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Ellis

PETITION NUMBER 111 – COTTESLOE LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME – NO. 3

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 12 April 2011.

The issues raised in the petition have not been the subject of a complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigation.

My submissions on behalf of the Members of Keep Cott Low are as follows:

1. The Town of Cottesloe, in good faith, entered into an enquiry by design EBD (EBD) after agreement was reached with the then State Labor Government to participate in the EBD.
2. The Town of Cottesloe and Keep Cott Low agreed to abide the outcome of the EBD.
3. The current State Government has declined to accept the findings of the EBD.
4. The State Government has been dishonest in its manipulation of the planning process, particularly by ignoring the outcome of the EBD.
5. The State Government has caused a significant waste of public revenue both at Local Government level and State Government level by failing to abide the outcome of the EBD. This allegation is supported by the considerable cost incurred by the Town of Cottesloe in participating in the EBD together with the costs of all the other stakeholders, including Keep Cott Low, that participated in the EBD process.
6. 14,000 signatories, the overwhelming majority of whom are not Cottesloe residents oppose any further increases in height on the building on the Cottesloe Beach front.

7. The Cottesloe will irrevocably changed for the worst – both in terms of its abundance, internationally status, tourist appeal and unique village character - if height limits in excess of those recommended by the EBD are permitted:
8. Incidentally I note that one of the first actions of the incoming government in New South Wales was to abolish the planning laws which now make high rise possible at the Ocean Beach Hotel and Cottesloe Beach Hotel sites.
9. The current State Government planning laws which allow special development zones to be declared on sites such as the Cottesloe Beach Hotel and Ocean Beach Hotel are both undemocratic and usurp the power of duly elected local governments such as the Town of Cottesloe.
10. The only supporters of increased height limits on the Cottesloe Beach front are real estate agents, property developers and builders. The general public both within and outside the Town of Cottesloe do not support increased height limits.
11. The opposition to increased height limits on Cottesloe Beach has been consistently strong.

I would be happy to appear before the Standing Committee to answer any questions in relation to what has been an eight year battle (Keep Cott Low was formed in or around 2003) to preserve the Cottesloe Beach front.

Yours sincerely



John Hammond
President
Keep Cott Low (Inc)

Cc: The Honourable Colin Barnett
Mr Chris Wiggins (SOS Inc)
The Editor, Post Newspapers
John Bassett, Western Suburbs Weekly

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