



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY VOICES

### South Australian Communities Unite to Demand Planning Accountability

**We the undersigned**, representing a broad coalition of South Australian community organisations and individuals, today issue this joint call for **an immediate review of the State Government planning process**.

Community wellbeing is being ignored in the face of developer interests. The planning system increasingly treats public consultation as an inconvenient formality rather than a democratic obligation to listen to constituents.

As Craig Holden, Chair of the State Planning Commission, stated in his recent video promoting the Community Engagement Charter, we need “greater opportunities for the community to influence how we live, work and move in our urban and rural areas”. This has been the opposite of the case in recent decision-making, with one recent consultation document (commissioned and paid for by developers) stating that community submissions were ‘statistically irrelevant’.

Far from engaging with community, this is an attitude of disrespect to those who will be most affected by the planning decision.

#### **Among the issues needing immediate investigation are:**

- Insufficient timeframes for communities to review complex proposals, coordinate professional advice, and prepare thorough submissions.
- Opaque processes that obscure who decides, on what evidence, and in whose interests.
- A growing acceptance of the use of AI algorithms and ‘sentiment reports’ in place of authentic engagement with community.
- The need for transparent publication of all decision-making inputs, including how public feedback is weighted, interpreted, or ignored.
- Most importantly, disregard for the impact on local amenity, infrastructure and heritage.

South Australians deserve better than the illusion of consultation. We deserve a planning system that respects citizens, values local knowledge, and acknowledges that communities have a right to be consulted on issues that affect their living and working environments.

Our lived experience, our children’s future amenity, and the very character that makes Adelaide one of the world’s most liveable cities, depend on an immediate review of the planning process in our state.

#### **Jointly signed by:**

Save The Cranker/Music Culture Adelaide  
Conservation Council SA  
Trees not Teslas  
Glenside Development Action Group Inc  
Stephen Morris – Sustainable Population Australia (SA/NT)  
Patrick Maher – Independent Candidate Central Ward, Adelaide  
David Pisoni  
Concerned Residents of the Barossa

Mt Barker and Districts Residents Assoc  
Dr Jennifer Bonham (Unley)  
Friends of the City of Unley  
Magill Matters  
Concerned Campbelltown Residents  
Community Development Advocacy SA  
Morialta Residents' Association  
Save Our Historic Mainstreets Inc



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**Media contact:**

Craig Pickering

Founder

Community Development Advocacy SA Inc

M: 0438 030 008

[www.cdasa.com.au](http://www.cdasa.com.au)