



1 October 2021

Ms Kiersten Fishburn
Coordinator, General Planning Delivery & Local Government
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Via email: Kiersten.Fishburn@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Fishburn

Re: Proposed Reforms of Infrastructure Contributions

I write to inform you that Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC), and all 11 member Councils have grave concerns in relation to the timing of the exhibition of the recommendations for reform of Infrastructure Contributions. Our member Councils are: Burwood, Bayside, Canada Bay, Canterbury Bankstown, Georges River, Inner West, Randwick, Sutherland, City of Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra. Together they represent approximately one third of the population of metropolitan Sydney.

To date there has been minimal consultation with Councils on this matter, and the consultation has clearly not been meaningful nor has the process been transparent. While we welcome the exhibition and its planned start date of 11 October 2021, it is essential that the consultation period should extend until well after the local government elections in December 2021.

As you are aware, Councils will enter a caretaker period in early November, which will end after the new Council is declared on 23 December 2021. Until the newly elected Councils are declared it is not possible for any meaningful consultation to take place. During the caretaker period, no decision should be made that will have a material impact on the Council's long term financial plan.

The proposed reforms could undoubtedly have such a material impact. Therefore we strongly maintain that consultation should occur over an extended period so that the elected representatives of our communities can meaningfully participate in such an important consultation.

I therefore request that the exhibition period for this proposed major reform extend from 11 October 2021, when Council officers would begin impact assessment, to well after the declaration of the new Councils on 23 December 2021. To provide time for due consideration by Councils, I respectfully ask that the consultation period extend to at least the end of March 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Faker', is written over a circular blue stamp.

Cr John Faker
Burwood Mayor
President Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils