NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

23 FEBRUARY 2010

INVITATION TO ATTEND SECOND WORKSHOP

Date: Tuesday, 23 February 2010
Time: 3.00 to 5.30 pm
Place: Sydney University, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, Wilkinson Building, 96 to 148 City Road, Darlington, NSW, 2008
Speaker: Dr John Williams, Commissioner of the Natural Resources Commission of NSW

Since the first successful workshop, held on the 21 January, 2010, the Workshop Facilitator, Jill Hannaford, and a small editorial committee, has written up the results of the meeting in the form of a discussion paper which accompanies this invitation. It is hoped that this material will provide an appropriate introduction to the next workshop which will concentrate on one specific issue of concern referred to in the discussion paper. This is the relation of the natural environment and natural resources to the pressure of human activity and its demands relating to the use of land.

Reconciling the competing demands to preserve the natural environment and natural resources with urban and regional development to accommodate human population and its long term growth evidently requires careful attention. Satisfying human demands for adequate sustenance, shelter and comfort may have enormous adverse repercussions where sustaining the natural environment is a specific goal. With the recent revelations relating to long term population growth in Australia, (35 million persons by 2050) this may be seen as one of the main problem areas of planning which demands a process of negotiation in the public arena. In this, a strategic approach may prove useful in achieving integration of competing interests in a future planning process. With this in mind, Dr John Williams, the Commissioner of the Natural Resources Commission, was invited and has agreed to present an address which will provide the introduction to the proposed workshop.

As may be gleaned from the NRC web site, http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/ Dr Williams is one of Australia's most respected scientists and has led the national debate about sustainable land management. Prior to joining the NRC in 2006, he was Chief Scientist and Chair of the Department of Natural Resources' Science and Information Board and Adjunct Professor in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management at Charles Sturt University. He retired from CSIRO as Chief of Land and Water in 2004. In 2005, Dr Williams was awarded the prestigious Farrer Memorial Medal for achievement and excellence in agricultural science.

Evidently, from an environmental perspective, Dr Williams is very well qualified to provide an appreciation of the issues requiring consideration in new planning legislation. It is therefore anticipated that Dr Williams will provide a valuable introduction to the workshop that will follow his address.

The Facilitator of the first workshop, Jill Hannaford, has again agreed to facilitate the proposed meeting and to assist in what is anticipated to be another lively debate. Clearly these are issues that will require the most careful consideration in any new legislative response to the need for environmental and land use planning in New South Wales. Accordingly, you are cordially invited to attend and participate in this second workshop of 2010 and help to lay the foundations of a new form of planning legislation for New South Wales.

A Group of Concerned Planners in New South Wales in Conjunction with the Planning Research Centre, PRC, at Sydney University
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