

On behalf of Davistown Progress Association I would like to raise objection to the proposed NSW Stage II Coastal Reforms.

Davistown is a small village of around 1000 homes and a population of around 2500 people. There are many retired or elderly couples and individuals and a fast growing population of new younger families. For many people their homes are their major asset. Our Progress Association is extremely concerned with the way in which the NSW State Government has not consulted our small community. This suburb is low lying and considered flood liable. People understand this risk and have invested in homes that in the main address that risk using flood planning levels. It is a quiet suburb with a long history and we believe that it has a long and prosperous future ahead.

The reforms proposed by Minister Stokes are very complicated and difficult to understand. However there are some points that do stand out:

- Planned retreat appears to be on the table again together with new notations on Section 149 planning Certificates. Our suburb stood against such matters when Gosford Council imposed sea level rise notations on our planning certificates. We do not want a repeat!
- Davistown has struggled to recover from the GFC and just as people are getting on top of the setbacks of that period, combined with a Council preaching the end of the world, the NSW State Government seems determined to do it all again. When will you start talking to us first so that we can discuss these matters and look at possible solutions? Such a rushed approach is not the way to address the threat of rising sea levels. We need a calm approach that involves our whole community. They will automatically challenge these proposals because they are frightening.
- Extending wetland areas and carving up our suburb into 4 different coastal areas sounds like an overkill on all counts.
- This suburb recently was affected by a floor level survey that indicated that many new homes had floor levels below the ground level or that had floors below the flood level. It was obviously wrong but they went ahead and published it. It was the State Government that gave them the money to do the survey. Now it has been dumped. Over the last 5 to 6 years there has been an endless parade about plans for sea level rise. A lot like what the State Government is doing now. Isn't it time to stop planning and actually do something? We would like to work with the State Government but not when the starting point is "you are going under and you will get planned retreat".

These are just some of the concerns. The big problem with these proposals is the lack of consultation and common sense. People like the residents of Davistown can see through the haze and they recognise when there is honesty and dishonesty. It's time the NSW State Government woke up and helped communities rather than trying to destroy them.

Our committee would be very happy to discuss our concerns personally if you have the time.

Yours sincerely,
Arthur Stanley,
President Davistown Progress Association