

From: Peter Klug [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 12:49 PM
To: OEH PD Coastal Reforms Mailbox
Subject: Submission against government proposed reforms

Categories: Red Category

DR. PETER KLUG
M.B.B.S F.R.A.N.Z.C.P.
GENERAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
SYDNEY NSW 2000
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

29 February 2016

Dear Madam/Sir

Re: Submission against proposed reforms

I own a property at [REDACTED] Callala Bay, NSW, which has been in our family for many years.

I object to the proposed reforms.

There has not been sufficient consultation with property owners. I only became aware of the reforms through word of mouth from a friend. It did not come to my attention through any notification from the government. It is important that the Government have a real and genuine consultation with property owners along the coastline. A rushed last minute consultation before and after Christmas is evidently not sufficient. The Government has been working on this large package for at least one year. One of the first activities should have been consultation with property owners - not the last thing done in a rush over Christmas and the summer holiday period.

There is no need to rush this legislation through now.

The Government should concentrate on dealing with erosion problems at the known coastal erosion hot spots. That can be done now under the existing legislation. Although permanent solutions were promised, there has been a total lack of action on this front in 5 years since the Coalition won the election in 2011. No permanent solution has been achieved at any known erosion hot spot. This is obviously a total failure by the Government to honour a commitment and a failure to solve real, existing problems. This is what the Government should be focussed on.

The reforms are not simple - again contrary to what was promised. They are overly prescriptive and bureaucratic. One example is that one property can be in more than one zone and face complying with more than 20 objectives. This is ridiculous!

Decisions about the coastline should not be left with Councils. The State Government must have the final say in approving or not approving coastal management plans. This is consistent with other areas of planning law where the planning documents are subject to

approval by the Minister . We need a plan for the State. Not different plans up and down the coast according to the ideas and political views of each council. The State Government should be in charge - not just a procedural certifier.

There should be detailed consultation with the coastal engineering profession. The reforms should introduce the flexibility to bring in solutions in the overall interest of NSW and its people. Any reforms should aim at building resilience and giving flexibility to bring in solutions viewed not on a lot by lot basis but having regard to all the circumstances of a particular compartment , community or area. The proposed legislation does not look at solutions in this way. The State Government must be involved in determining the future of our coastline and its communities. This includes commercial property and infrastructure as well as townships and residential property .

The Government should be developing a whole of State plan . The first part of the plan should be to solve the existing problems. The second part should be about building resilience. This is the leadership needed for NSW. Giving all decisions to the local councils and arming them with new powers to deny property owners the right to protect and the power to order demolition of individual houses itself creates a threat to the coastal communities far larger than anything they currently face.

Minister Hunt has recognised that a national approach is needed - not local demolition work.

The Government should not bring in these reforms now. It should go back and consider how it can provide leadership for the State and at a national level . It should consult much more widely with communities and professionals in this area. These reforms are the opposite of what NSW needs in the future.

Yours faithfully

Peter Klug
Forensic Psychiatrist

Consultant General & Forensic Psychiatrist in Private Practice, Sydney
Chairman, Northside Clinic Greenwich Medical Advisory Committee
Consultant, Mood Disorders Unit, Northside Clinic, Greenwich
Member, Mental Health Review Tribunal, Forensic and Civil
WorkCover Trained Assessor of Permanent Impairment
Workers Compensation Commission, Approved Medical Specialist
Motor Accident Authority Trained Assessor of Permanent Impairment
Motor Accident Assessment Service, Medical Assessor

Dr Peter Klug

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