

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PREMIER OF NSW

Dear Madam Premier,

If the Premier can learn anything by the Penrith by-election reported [25% swing against Labor](#), voter votes actually account for public opinion.

Otford Protection Society has lodged with the Planning NSW an historic [Planning Proposal](#) under the Gateway system to rezone environmentally sensitive lands around Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops. This application is a first by any group or individual other than by a Council, and seeks to resolve many years of developer pressure, together with an exit strategy for disenfranchised and “speculator” land owners.

The comprehensive [Planning Proposal](#) over lands which are adjacent to “Royal National Park”, Australia’s first and the world’s second oldest National Park, was intended to use the same process that councils use to seek approval for rezonings and LEP modifications. Is the Premier aware that the community does NOT have the same access rights to Council and the Director-General of Planning as developers? It must be a different rule as Planning NSW refuses to process the application to advertise its simple lodgement by virtue of NOT placing it on the Planning NSW [LEP Tracking Website](#).

Here, a community group has actually put its public opinion into the government process. So what does Planning NSW and Wollongong City Council (under Administrators appointed by the Labor State Government) do, everything they can to “kill” the proposal. And where is the State Member for Heathcote on this [Planning Proposal](#).

It’s time for the Premier, Planning NSW and Wollongong City Council, to start giving back to the community it supposedly represents and once again listen to the community. This community group [Planning Proposal](#) will be the litmus test if Labor is listening and will show if it (Labor) has the capacity to learn from the disastrous result of the Penrith by-election.

The Premier needs to instruct Planning NSW via the Minister, to immediately enter the Otford Protection Society [Planning Proposal](#) on the [LEP Tracking Website](#) as it meets the requirements of “The proposed LEP relates to a matter that is of State or Regional environmental significance” and “The Proposed LEP is of State significance in terms of amenity, cultural, heritage and historical significance” (as per the Planning NSW’s own practice note).

What’s needed is a plan, so let this historic Community Group [Planning Proposal](#) run its course through the planning process, not the Government just buy a piece of land here or there, and say it has “fixed” the problem.

Restore community faith in the democratic process by allowing the community to have equal say in the planning process. At your peril, the community will judge you harshly in March next year, or sooner, if you continue to ignore community proposals, concerns and input.

The comprehensive Otford Protection Society Planning Proposal may be seen at www.otfordeco.com/planning/GatewayApplicationfor2508.pdf copy attached.

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