MEDIA RELEASE

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Community and heritage disregarded in A New Planning System for NSW

The community, heritage and bushland will be the losers if the proposals in A New Planning System for NSW Green Paper prepared by the NSW Government are legislated.

Comments on the Green Paper close on 14 September, and it proposes sweeping changes for all planning in NSW.

These changes include community participation being restricted to only the broad brush strategic planning stage. Commenting on neighbouring property DAs would no longer be possible.

The Green Paper makes no mention of Conservation Areas, and thus by implication they would no longer exist under this new planning regime. The Development Control Plans (DCPs) developed with heritage expertise and extensive community consultation to protect heritage would be removed.

Spokesperson for the Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc, Adrienne Kabos stated that “This would have potentially dire consequences for all conservation areas but particularly for the Griffin Conservation Area that has not only local and state significance but also national and international significance.” She went on to say that “Conservation areas and their associated DCPs are designed to protect significant heritage for the community and for future generations but this is about to be swept aside by the proposals in this Green Paper”.

Other major concerns include the proposed repeal of all State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) which protect urban bushland, water catchment areas and koala habitat to mention just a few.

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