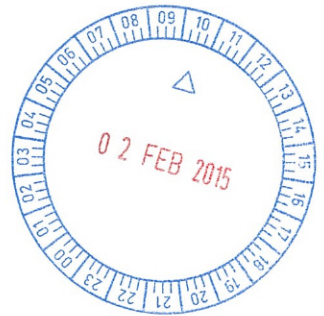


Legislation, Uniform

From: Teresa Pickerill
Sent: Sunday, 1 February 2015 5:02 PM
To: Legislation, Uniform
Subject: Submission for DAP review



The Hon. Catherine Doust
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review

The Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review

Since coming into existence in 2011 the DAP's, it seems, have consistently caused controversy and dissatisfaction within communities.

As residents in West Leederville we have been closely involved with the DAP process in our neighbourhood. It has been an enlightening process and one that appears to allow involvement of the local community; however the reality is the opposite in our experience. And if one reads the regular letters in the newspaper it seems our suburb is not alone in its disappointment.

There are several issues we would like to address:

We are invited to attend relevant DAP meetings and even present at them. However, many times when a group of representatives from our community have turned up, the room is not set up in a welcoming manner. Sometimes the room is not big enough; often there has been a shortage of chairs, with officials having to disrupt proceedings with bringing in more chairs and squeezing people in. It all seems very disorganized and unprepared for any members of the public at all. It is almost always very difficult to hear what is said.

When the council (who we have elected as our representatives) is responsible for decisions, they are made with the community interest at heart. The councillors are approachable, accountable, elected members who live in the neighbourhood. Our experience of the DAP process is that it is out of our control. The panel members are not elected and do not appear to have the interest of the local community as their primary focus. It is the removal of the community voice, and has become a purely political process. Developers can bypass council and the local people are ignored. The very people who choose to live in the neighbourhood because of the sense of community and lifestyle.

In the DAP applications that we have been involved in, the number of submissions opposing the development or requesting changes always outnumber those approving it, yet these unaccountable panel

members seem to take little notice of this. The panel members and developers do not have to live with the decisions for the next 40 or 50 years, or live with the traffic and social consequences.

As a community we appreciate the need for development and change. However we believe that the council is the best forum for these decisions. The council is in a better position to predict the future needs of their residents. When the panel members dismiss council regulations and bylaws as “guidelines” and ride roughshod over the neighborhood concerns, this is not democracy.

We believe the DAP process should be terminated as it appears to benefit only developers with a total disregard for the local community.

Regards,

Teresa and Joseph Keszi