



C A P O

COALITION AGAINST PRIVATE OVERDEVELOPMENT

(Representing the interests of the community)

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OPEN LETTER TO COMMUNITY GROUPS OPPOSING NSW GOVERNMENT PLANNING APPROVALS AND DISASTERS

Communities in the wider Sydney / NSW area are facing the most significant ever challenge to have their voices heard in relation to major development proposals and disasters that directly impact on their quality of life, health and environment.

Current NSW State Government planning laws place extraordinary powers in the hands of Planning Minister Frank Sartor, who now can usurp development approval powers from local councils, ignore proper consultation with local residents and override legal rulings and community concerns over issues ranging from potential and existing environmental damage and health risks to safety concerns and the overloading of inadequate local infrastructure.

The NSW Government's urban consolidation agenda is a clear failure. '***The only beneficiaries are big developers and the NSW Government***' which is raking in funds from associated taxes and charges to prop up their budget shortfalls, and of course, getting huge 'political donations' to assist in their election campaign.

Ordinary citizens and whole communities are the biggest losers in this process because '***accountability no longer rests at a local level with local government, but with one person in the NSW State Government – Planning Minister Frank Sartor***'. Residents in one community can influence the decisions of their locally elected council representatives, but as a single group, have an almost impossible task in attempting to express their concerns to the NSW Planning Minister.

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!!

Strong Collective Community Action is needed now to ***stop the NSW Government ignoring or overriding community concerns*** over inappropriate or excessive development.

Dozens of action groups are located in communities from the Eastern Suburbs to the City to the Western Suburbs & outside Sydney in greater NSW. ***Individually, these groups may struggle to be heard. Collectively, we can have a strong voice that cannot be ignored.***

Now is the time for action!!

'DAY OF RECKONING –

**CHANGE NSW PLANNING POLICIES,
OR CHANGE THE NSW GOVERNMENT**

All community action groups and supporters that want their voice heard are invited to attend a special event being planned for ***11am Sunday, February 11, 2007 in Sydney's Hyde Park near Archibold Fountain, to then march on Parliament House.*** This will be family-friendly rally with key speakers; Health and Planning Specialists, Politicians who are listening to the community and many others.

Thousands of people are expected to attend this rally, and with this number of people will come the media coverage linked into the lead-up to the March State election. Your concerns will then become an issue that must be directly addressed by Minister Frank Sartor and the NSW State Government.

Community groups interested in participating in this **'Day of Reckoning'** should contact CAPO on 0407900615 or email. Collectively, we will then plan our approach.

What is you local Member doing for you – ????????????????

Rolf Clapham,