

6 December 2018

Nathan Laird
Acting Executive Director
Department of Planning
320 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Laird,

RE: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN

The Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW Division (UDIA) is the leading group representing the development industry. UDIA has a long interest in improving community engagement, we understand many of the current challenges that failure to consult and take the community on a journey produce.

UDIA has developed a community engagement platform, Urban Pinboard, which is an online 3D model of the city combined with a user feedback and consultation text. Urban Pinboard facilitates engagement by utilising aeroplane photography, 3D imagery and text feedback to promote interactive community engagement, which greatly improves transparency. We would welcome the opportunity to present on this.

UDIA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the community participation plan, we understand the plan was birthed from the 2013 planning reforms, which included a community participation charter.

We considered the charter to be a key change in the new planning system, as it would be an opportunity for the community to participate in the strategic planning process on an ongoing basis, with a wider range of tools to interest and engage a representative and sizeable portion of the community.

The Community Participation Plan is a welcome first step that codifies and brings together a range of legislative and regulatory requirements. The next step must integrate government, industry and the community as part of a partnership that builds trust and integrity within the planning system.

We note that industry is not considered as part of the community and the UDIA would reiterate the need that industry needs to have a seat at the table to ensure that development and the future city can be delivered.

A key part of consultation is the need to have open and honest conversations about a range of different issues, and we welcome the opportunity to do so with the Department of Planning, as such we endorse the community participation objectives; however, we believe more could be done to include the effectiveness of community engagement. An example of an area to improve

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transparency and ease of participation is to not upload scanned paper documents (maps, policies and the like), but instead searchable pdfs.

We consider innovations such as e-planning could have the potential to improve the Department's ability to consult more broadly and add to the transparency and openness when it comes to specific projects, particularly if integrated with other tools such as the Urban Pinboard.

UDIA would be willing to meet with you to further discuss the Community Participation Plan and alternative methods of community engagement. Please contact Elliott Hale, General Manager Policy, Media and Government Relations on ehale@udiansw.com.au to arrange.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Mann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Mann" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Mann
UDIA NSW CEO

Attached: Urban Pinboard Summary Slides