

6 May 2019

The Hon Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001


Dear Minister

I would like to congratulate you on your reappointment to the Planning portfolio. I am pleased to see your portfolio also includes Public Spaces, an area that will need an important focus into the future. I would also appreciate if you would pass on my congratulations to Mr Jim Betts on his recent appointment as Secretary of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Penrith City Council is committed to harnessing the opportunities that can be supported by new infrastructure being planned and delivered in the Western Parkland City – including the Sydney International Nancy-Bird Walton Airport, together with the North South Rail Link. Balancing transformation with this infrastructure is critical and our Council is on the precipice of significant change through the catalytic growth that will occur as a result.

Joined up and collaborative planning between all levels of Government is needed to ensure that this growth aligns with the necessary infrastructure. Of concern to Council is the increase and clustering of boarding house developments permitted through the Affordable Rental Housing State Environmental Planning Policy 2009. Clustering of these boarding houses has the potential for cumulative amenity and social impacts due to the transient nature of the occupants.

The ability for Councils to play their role in managing growth will become more important over time. Council's limitation of planning powers including the inability to refuse certain development, such as boarding houses, makes the future management of this type of growth challenging. To this end, we would like to express our concern and disappointment regarding legislative changes that place limitations on Council's planning powers.

Our General Manager and I would like the opportunity to meet with you and Jim Betts to brief you and discuss these issues. At your earliest convenience, could your staff please contact Kylie Powell, Director City Futures on 4732 7580 to arrange this meeting. We look forward to meeting with you and Mr Betts to discuss these issues which affect our city.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Ross Fowler OAM
Mayor

