



*Preserving Our Heritage*  
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NSW Dept of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney 2001

**Expanding complying development to  
Include two-storey medium density housing**

The Hunters Hill Trust was formed in 1968 at time when the municipality's built heritage was being demolished for three storey walk-up unit blocks and a freeway had been ploughed through its centre. The Trust was formed by a group of concerned locals *"at a time when the climate was ripe for residents' protests against the bureaucratic indifference of the Council and the threat to the unique character of this suburb"* (The Vision and the Struggle page 4).

The Trust has had considerable success in the fight and is responsible for the introduction of the extensive heritage listings of buildings, walls and bushland in the Hunters Hill LGA and the creation of, for the first time in Australia, a Conservation Advisory Panel.

The Trust is opposed to this proposal to expand complying development because:

- It will reduce the level of proper assessment of proposals in relation to their context.
- It will consequently have a negative impact on the existing character of suburban areas in Sydney.
- Sydney is already under attack from the proliferation of badly designed and inappropriate project houses and this will only increase the pace of destruction.
- Particular exclusions must be made for proposals in Conservation Areas, in the vicinity of heritage-listed buildings, parks, nature conservation areas and in areas of environmental sensitivity.
- Proper assessment should continue to be made in relation to the impact of such proposals on the existing character of urban and suburban areas.

It is considered that this will not be able to be properly undertaken by private certifiers because they lack the particular skills required to make such assessments. As well they lack the necessary local knowledge and experience of Council planning officers.

The Trust does not understand the necessity to speed up the development assessment process. At most there will only be a time saving measured in days while the buildings will be extant for decades.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Coote  
President  
The Hunters Hill Trust Inc.