



Paul Scully MP

SHADOW MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES
MEMBER FOR WOLLONGONG

20 March 2023

Councillor Susan Wynne
Mayor
Woollahra Municipal Council
PO Box 61
DOUBLE BAY NSW 1360

Dear Mayor

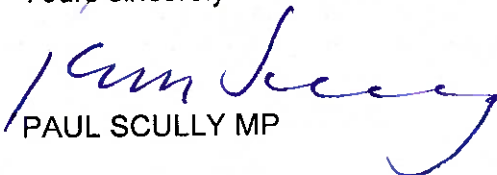
I acknowledge your letter of 14 March 2023 addressed to NSW Labor Leader, Mr Chris Minns MP, regarding planning matters and local government in New South Wales. Your letter has been referred to me as Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for further consideration and response. I have taken note of the Council resolution of 27 February 2023.

NSW Labor notes that the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) recommended the establishment of independent planning panels as part of anti-corruption safeguards in the planning system. We note these anti-corruption safeguards have also been requested by the community.

NSW Labor notes, as made clear in a recent NSW Auditor General's report, that over 96 per cent of all development application assessments and approvals are still determined at the local government level by council staff and councillors. The remainder of the assessments and determinations occur through independent planning panels, the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), and Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

NSW Labor will maintain a respectful ongoing working relationship with local government across the state to deliver an effective, efficient, and transparent planning system to balance competing public interests for land use, including for housing, business and industry development, heritage and environmental conservation. This includes a commitment to an intergovernmental agreement with Local Government NSW.

Yours sincerely


PAUL SCULLY MP