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The Inquiry Secretary
Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Federal Government Inquiry into a Sustainability Charter
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INQUIRY INTO SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

In our submission on the discussion paper on the Federal Government Inquiry into Sustainable Cities we strongly advocated that an evidence based approach rather than an ideological approach be adopted to the question. We gave as an example New South Wales planning policies which claim to be more sustainable while the available evidence shows that this is not the case.

In spite of the lack of evidence that these planning policies will produce the benefits claimed they are continuing to be implemented. As a further indicator of the inadequacy of the arguments put forward in support of these policies an article by the author published in the Monash University journal *People and Place*, vol. 13 no. 4, 2005 is attached. This article in turn refers to two previous articles in that publication. It highlights the lack of objective justification for policies being implemented that are having an extensive and irreversable effect on the population.

In the light of this example we strongly advocate that all practical measures be embodied into a sustainability charter to reduce the possibility of the introduction of specious objectives and policies.

Please accept our apologies for this late submission.

Tony Recsei
President

