

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW JOURNAL

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ARTICLES

Integrating social impact assessment into the planning regime of Parramatta City Council – *Kate McCauley and Richard Howitt*

In New South Wales, development consent authorities must consider the likely impacts, including the social impacts, of proposed development activity. Most NSW Councils rely upon Statements of Environmental Effects to inform their consent decisions in relation to the likely impacts of proposed development activity. This article discusses Parramatta City Council's direct action to integrate Social Impact Assessment (SIA) more clearly into its development assessment processes to ensure better informed decision-making as the consent authority. This process will foster SIA as a mechanism for deeper community involvement in planning processes. This article argues that integrating SIA into local government planning can increase transparency and accountability for all stakeholders in relation to the social outcomes of development, and in the Parramatta case, will strengthen the reliability of responses to the State Metropolitan Plan 2036 and reporting on the Parramatta Community Strategic Plan 2036. 79

Cleaning up pollution fair and square: The duty to afford procedural fairness in the issue of clean-up notices in NSW – *Alison Packham*

Clean-up Notices (CNs) are a vital environment protection tool to order the clean-up of a threatened or actual pollution incident. It is imperative that government officers charged with the responsibility of issuing CNs, do so according to the rules of procedural fairness, as failure to afford procedural fairness in the issue of CNs can invalidate the decision to issue the CN. In the interests of environment protection and efficient and effective administration, government officers must be aware of the procedural duties they are required to discharge in order to issue an effective CN. 87

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