



(no subject)

Wed, Dec 13, 2023 at 8:29 AM

Merry Christmas Everyone.

Today, I am here to express my opposition to item 9.4. My concerns are mainly focused on two key elements of the report: the proposed 150-day DA turnaround times and the 20-day timeline for Construction Certificates.

But first, are the council aware that no responses were made to the objectors in this report, specifically pertaining to the DA items? Is there a reason people went out of their way to make submissions and were then overlooked?

Are the council aware that our neighbours at Goulburn are consistently churning out DAs in 90 days or less? What are they doing that we are not, and if it's a staffing issue, why do they have staff, and we do not?

Why are we aiming for a 150-day benchmark when we already deliver DAs in 120 days? This target not only lacks ambition but seems to be an easily attainable goal rather than a significant improvement.

This report makes no mention of wait times and standards in regards to submissions on the portal. Are you aware that many people have spent up to 2 months waiting to be accepted?

I assume the council is aware that despite efforts to expedite the processing of Construction Certificates to a 20-day turnaround, this objective seems unattainable at present due to the lack of staff assigned to assess these certificates. Very recently, I was told to withdraw my CC application and seek a private certifier instead, as you are not assessing CCs anymore.

While it's understandable to attribute some of the current challenges to the legacy of the previous council, we are approaching four years of administration without a resolution to a lot of major DA issues.

You will have noticed that I have slightly strayed outside the parameters of this report with my objection. The purpose is to highlight to you that DA turnaround times are just one factor in a much larger problem and should be part of a much larger conversation. One that is long overdue between this council and the builders of Wingecarribee.

So, I ask that all elements pertaining to Construction be removed from this report. That you engage your local construction community in a separate consultation and report, specifically on and only relating to all aspects of DAs, CC's, CDC's, and affiliated certificates, covering all standards, procedures, and satisfactions.

I want it to be known that today, if you endorse this report, you do not have the support of the local builders or construction workers, and I will remind you that we are the largest economic contributor to this area.

These numbers and procedures may just be targets for you, but for me, this is my friends, my colleagues, and our local working communities' livelihoods. They don't have KPIs to hit; they have mouths to feed.

Jesse Fitzpatrick