

Submitted on Tue, 04/02/2020 - 23:49

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Submission:

I - It is fundamentally important that enforceable community benefit agreements be established wherever this development will impact people's quality of life. Rather than seeing this as a risk too hard to sell to developers, planners should see this as an opportunity for inclusive and proactive mitigation of project risk and unplanned delays due to lack of social license. Read that again. Community benefit agreements, community based planning, participatory design etc. are already best practices in many advanced countries. Let's use this once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase some real socio-economic and environmental innovation; rather than becoming just another example of rich and powerful interests doing what they think is best and "consulting community" somewhere in the process.

It's insulting to a growing number of people who are conditioned to expect customer-centricity from the same private sector that government claims to want to emulate, in many ways. Bottom line, policy makers and planners should be moving this entire process further into the 'collaboration' or 'empower' columns of the IAP2 spectrum instead of relying on the stale old 'build it hope they come' approach to development. It's time.

II - I haven't seen anything in the media about the planning process as it relates to Indigenous procurement policies, reconciliation action planning, or engagement with Traditional Owners or Aboriginal Land councils. May be that info just isn't public yet. But if not, this is a huge missed opportunity for government and developers to assert their commitment to social and environmental justice. Even if restorative justice for social responsibility's sake is not persuasive enough to take this action, the social license business case alone should be compelling enough to even the crustiest old economic rationalist.

||| - Planners should set aside part of the agribusiness precinct for start up and small scale agripreneurs with a focus on Australian native foods. These are inherently more sustainably produced, acclimated to Australian conditions and require less fertilisers. Native foods also carry massively undertapped branding potential for a variety of markets. Look at the Kakadu and Davidson plums for example. Good luck on "engaging" the rest of the community (more free gold: nobody likes to be "engaged", and why are communities always somehow outside the process in need of being engaged in the first place? Language matters, buzzwords notwithstanding). I'd be surprised and disappointed if the above are all novel concepts to you and other planners. We'll be watching to see where the rhetoric of the PR comms meets the road.