



Calls to strip council of powers in planning stoush

A group representing developers says the New South Wales Government should strip the North Sydney Council of its planning powers.

The Land and Environment Court ruled that a new Local Environment Plan (LEP) was invalid, because the council failed to put the correct documentation on public display for consultation.

The court also found the council failed to consider the submissions of the Urban Taskforce.

Taskforce chief executive officer Aaron Gadiel says an independent panel should be appointed to take over the council's planning role.

"What they've been caught out doing is misleading the public in really important ways," he said.

"Misleading the public about what their plans meant, what the figures were in those plans.

"How can we trust the North Sydney Council when a judge of the Land and Environment Court says that they were misleading the public?"

But Mayor Genia McCaffery says the case is being pushed by a developer who wants to put up a building that is twice as tall as the existing height restrictions.

"This is both a technicality and a practice that's normal with councils, but we have to take on board the judge's decision," she said.

"We'll re-exhibit the LEP, but I think the Urban Taskforce's call for the council's planning powers to be taken away is absolutely ridiculous."