

Community astounded at Lord Mayor's unheralded announcement

5 March 2023

Statement from Kurilpa Futures

The announcement (3.2.23) by the City of Brisbane Lord Mayor, Adrian Schrinner, regarding the relaxation of height regulations for South Brisbane and the Parmalat site in Montague Road, has astounded Kurilpa Futures on two fronts. One, for its complete surprise to locals and two, for its disregard for world's best practice urban planning and design.

1. Where is the meaningful community engagement required by the City of Brisbane Act (2010) and Council's own [Community Engagement Policy](#)?

To ensure accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable governance, the City of Brisbane Act 2010 (Qld), requires:

- I. *transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; and*
- II. *democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement (City of Brisbane Act 2010 (Qld), section 4(2)).*

2. How does this proposal comply with Council's own [Design-led City - a design strategy for Brisbane](#)?

Of all times, now is not the time to throw out Council's commitment to quality urban planning and design. Now is the time to step up to pay heed to professional urban disciplines, when pressure to compromise our principles is intense given a national housing crisis and the 2023 Olympics.

The number of substantive issues here are so bewildering, that it undermines our trust in government. For example, the community can see plainly that:

- Development of 90 storey buildings on a flood plain in a climate crisis is madness
- There is inadequate existing open space to support the existing population and this has been longstanding.
- These high-rise buildings will not make housing more affordable as evidenced over the past 20 years
- Similarly, there is already a massive deficit in social infrastructure including neighbourhood recreation space for the existing population, let alone with another 10,000 people
- The area they propose for development is already choked with traffic.

Kurilpa Futures continues to invest valuable time addressing all the above urban planning and design issues and bringing community concerns to government.

Now, in the light of this unheralded announcement, we would value the opportunity for Lord Mayor Schrinner to explain how this recent step complies with his obligations as our city leader.

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