

Media Release

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Action on poor planning laws at last?

The Queensland parliament e-petition asking for reform of the current planning laws, which locks out residents from determining how their community will progress, was tabled today with 4,987 valid signatures.

This petition, in addition to numerous letters and submissions to the Minister for Planning over the past year, seems to be finally yielding some results.

Lois Levy, the principal petitioner, and Campaign Coordinator for Gecko Environment Council, said “As a result of our latest submission to the Minister for Planning and the petition, we have been given an appointment to discuss our request for urgent action on poor planning with the Minister’s Senior Policy Advisor next Thursday.”

Residents of the Gold Coast have been horrified by many of the developments being approved in the city as a result of the performance based planning legislation. This legislation seems to allow virtually anything to be approved regardless of its social impact on neighbourhoods and clearly favours the development industry over residents.

Lois said “The planning legislation and the way our City Plan is being interpreted in assessment of development applications is actually a denial of our rights as residents. When 98% of all development applications are assessed by code, which does not permit objections, then the community is locked out from any say in the liveability and amenity of that community.”

The residents of Palm Beach are outraged at the number of high rise buildings approved with excessive relaxations of height, density, setbacks, parking and communal space changing the face of Palm Beach forever, but not for the better. At the same time, the Council which is approving all these buildings has refused to release the Palm Beach Character Study completed in 2016 following on extensive community consultation.

Broadbeach residents are also appalled at what is happening to their suburb especially with the latest approval of a 56 storey high rise on a 736m² block and an ugly 4 storey podium for car stacker parking. Residents of other suburbs live in fear that the Broadbeach “disease” will spread to their suburb.

In the northern growth corridor, the concerns relate to the sardine-tin style housing developments with lack of community amenities, the destruction of all trees on development blocks, tiny pocket-sized parks and traffic congestion, resulting in suburbs with temperatures 4C degrees higher than even Surfers Paradise with all its concrete towers. Do these very poor planning decisions constitute a health risk for those families as we see our summers get longer and hotter?

The Gold Coast community has had enough of planning which ignores its needs and will continue to take action until there is real reform.

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