

SEQ Alliance

Advocating responsible planning in Queensland

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Strong community support for better planning laws

More than 5,000 Queensland residents have signed an e-petition to State parliament calling for law changes to better control property development.

Very few e-petitions to state parliament attract such strong community support, in fact this Petition is in the top 5%.

The petition was initiated by an Alliance of South East Queensland community groups in response to widespread concerns about poorly planned developments approved by local councils and state governments over many years. The SEQ Alliance accepts that population growth will continue and that urban infill can assist in managing this, but the number of developments that exceed planning requirements is out of control.

SEQ Alliance spokesperson Lois Levy said the petition empowered people to tell politicians in both major parties that they must do more to preserve the heritage and character of places where people live, protect and expand green spaces and conserve habitat of koalas and other wildlife.

“People are fed up with loss of neighbourhood character, environmental destruction and traffic congestion, caused by badly planned development” said Ms Levy.

“The current laws allow far too many relaxations of planning scheme requirements with no perceivable community benefit. The result is apartment blocks over height limits, increased density, no setbacks to enable landscaping, car stackers instead of parking, and no consideration of cumulative impact in neighbourhoods. Better planning laws would impose more controls on building heights, residential density and provision of open space which would give the community more certainty about what the future holds for their neighbourhood” she said.

The petition asks Parliament to review and improve Queensland’s planning laws to put community interests ahead of the interests of developers by:

- Imposing clearer limits on what development is allowed
- Making most developments subject to genuine public scrutiny and objection
- Requiring full transparency of council and government decisions

The on-line E-Petition can be signed up until 27 February.

Any Queensland resident can sign the petition which can be accessed here:

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=2989>.

Community representatives from Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Redlands formed the South East Queensland Alliance (SEQA) in early 2018.

Many examples of inappropriate development approved under the current planning regime in Queensland can be provided by SEQ Alliance representatives.

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- Kommune Tower at Rainbow Bay – exceeded height, density, setback and parking guidelines
- Main Beach towers – excessive bulk, density 3.5 times over, 20 storeys in 10 storey area, very small setbacks. Another is 14 storeys on 617sqm block.
- Palm Beach – Jefferson Lane exceeded density, greatly reduced communal space, reduced parking, reduced setbacks.

About the South East Queensland Alliance

The South East Queensland Alliance includes the following community groups and their member groups:

- [Gecko Environment Council](#), based on the Gold Coast
- [The Community Alliance](#), based on the Gold Coast
- [Brisbane Residents United](#) representing various local community groups
- [Redlands2030](#) representing residents in Redland City
- [OSCAR](#) (Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents)
- [Brisbane Regional Environment Centre](#).

SEQ Alliance spokesperson:

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