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COOGEE ELECTORATE EVENTS

Mr BRUCE NOTLEY-SMITH (Coogee) [5.53 p.m.]: Today I inform the House about some positive events in or near my Coogee electorate.....

I will also update the House on an issue that I spoke about a few months ago, which was the appalling proposal to transform the existing Bronte RSL site in my electorate into a complex of high-rise apartments, small retail stores and a large Harris Farm market. The height of the proposal exceeded current council guidelines by 7.5 metres and also would have seen the RSL dramatically reduced in size. I am very pleased to report that at a special meeting three weeks ago of the joint regional planning panel the proposal was rejected unanimously. It was rejected on the basis that it was of immense concern to residents of Bronte because of its size and bulk. It certainly would not have been in the best interests of the community. I agree entirely with the community sentiments. The proposal flouted all good planning principles for the purpose of maximising profits. There is no doubt that the Bronte RSL site needs redevelopment. However, this proposal goes way too far from what is needed for Bronte and what is desired by its residents.

Over the past months I have sought to be in close contact with my constituents in Bronte and throughout my electorate who were outraged at this proposal. I made my position clear on this issue in the local media and I have attended events in support of the campaign against it, including a rally held outside the Bronte RSL site. The person we must thank most for this excellent outcome is Dr Stephen Lightfoot. Dr Lightfoot established Save Bronte Village, a campaign that has actively fought against the proposal for so long that it attracted the attention of ABC's 7:30, which ran a story on the ongoing saga. I note that the work of Dr Lightfoot and the Save Bronte Village campaign may not be over if the developer decides to appeal the decision in the Land and Environment Court. In the event of an appeal, I will again be supporting Dr Lightfoot's efforts and the efforts of the community of Bronte to get a reasonable outcome for this site. I commend Dr Lightfoot for his work on behalf of the community and I commend all the other people who have contributed so much to making the Save Bronte Village campaign a success so far. Dr Lightfoot is a great example of a grassroots activist whose efforts have truly made a difference in effecting a much more desirable outcome for Bronte.