



SAVE BRONTE

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Media Release
29 November 2013

BRONTE BETRAYED: STATE GOVERNMENT PLANNING DECISION IGNORES COMMUNITY INPUT

The state government's commitment to prioritising community input into planning decisions for their local area has been called into question.

Despite the Waverley Council and broader Bronte community requesting that the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DOPI) dismiss requests from Bronte RSL development partner Winston Langley Burlington's (WLB) to change the planning controls at the RSL site, the DOPI has referred the developer's request to the Planning and Assessment Commission for review, completely ignoring local council and community concerns.

WLB's request to increase height limit to 20 metres and double the existing floor space ratio limit at the Bronte RSL site was unanimously refused by Waverley Councillors on 16 July 2013, a decision that was applauded by the Bronte community. WLB then asked the DOPI to review this decision in August.

Save Bronte spokesperson, Dr Stephen Lightfoot, said today that "Our community is bitterly disappointed with the decision of the DOPI. It's clear that the Department holds little regard for the members of Waverley Council, and even less for the Bronte community.

"This decision is a slap in the face for Bronte residents, who over the past year have been actively involved in the strategic planning process. Our community feels betrayed by a government who has repeatedly assured the people of NSW that they are returning planning powers to the community. This decision makes a mockery of that rhetoric. Rather than giving priority to our community's positive vision for Bronte, the government has pushed us aside."

"The government had a chance here to come good on its promise, but actions speak louder than words and any promise of improved community input has been well and truly broken. Minister Hazzard can act for the community today. He has the power to back our community's, and our Council's, vision for Bronte and dismiss the developer's requested planning control changes. He should do this without any further delay."

ENDS

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