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Media Release

BRONTE SAVED FROM OVERDEVELOPMENT

Bronte residents have scored a significant win over a developer on the Bronte RSL site.

The Department of Planning & Environment (DoPE) has announced that it has dismissed developer Winston Langley Burlington (WLB)'s proposed planning controls for the Bronte RSL site.

"This is a fantastic result for our community" Save Bronte spokesperson Dr Stephen Lightfoot said today, "Our community has always known that the WLB proposal for the Bronte RSL site was too big for our neighbourhood centre. It has taken far too long but the right decision has finally been made."

WLB wanted to rezone the site to avoid complying with existing planning controls.

The Save Bronte community group has led the campaign against the overdevelopment of the site for more than two years.

"Our community has stood strongly together against all that has been thrown at us for over two years. Many people did not believe that we could win but the people of Bronte never gave up and never backed down."

Referring to the seemingly endless developer attempts to have its non-complying plans approved, Dr Lightfoot said "The planning system is currently stacked against residents who would like to have a say in the future of their own neighbourhood. Often the community is shut out of decisions and the system is developer-focused. It needs to be changed to a system that prioritises local communities and their views."

"We thank all the residents in our community who worked tirelessly to save Bronte. We had support from all political parties at a local level during our campaign. Our elected representatives worked hard on behalf of our community including our state MP Mr Bruce Notley-Smith, our Mayor Sally Betts and all our Waverley Councillors including Paula Masselos and Ingrid Strewé. We thank all our local representatives for their support."

"The developer's proposals had been overwhelmingly rejected several times over the last two and a half years by the Bronte community, Waverley Council, independent planners, our local representatives, and now by the State Government. We now call on WLB and its partners in the Bronte RSL sub-branch to act responsibly in proposing a redevelopment of the Bronte RSL site that complies with the established rules and with the council and community vision for our neighbourhood. Any further attempts to avoid our planning laws will be fiercely opposed by the Bronte community."

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