

9 January 2014 Channel 7 News

FIRST ON 7: Local residents in Bronte are outraged they again have to fight against a massive development project that has already been blocked twice.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/nsw/a/20669799/bronte-community-fights-development/?cmp=twitter>

Locals say Macpherson Road in Bronte is already busy enough.

"The road is narrow and even in this time of day on a slow day in the holidays you can see there's not a lot of parking, there's a lot of traffic," Save Bronte's Paula Masselos said.

The former RSL club is the problem - developers have bought it and want to transform it, but residents are not happy.

"To us the issue is not development, it's an issue of over-development," Save Bronte's Roger Rajaratnam said.

It is 20 metres or six storeys high, which is considerably more than the current 13 metre limit - and has already been rejected by Waverley Council and a regional planning panel.

Now the state government has given the developer another hearing, this time before an assessment commission, after being told the project was of state significance.

"That's rubbish it is absolutely not of any state significance whatsoever," Waverley Mayor Sally Betts said.

If approved, it's feared the development will forever change Bronte.

"Then what would happen is it would be the next one and the next one and the next one. we just cannot allow this to be a precedent," the mayor said.

But the opposition says it's proof the state government has broken its promise to deliver more power to the people.

"What we're seeing in Bronte is being repeated all over Sydney, communities being cut out of a say over the shape and look of their suburbs," Shadow Planning Minister Luke Foley said.

Planning Minister Brad Hazzard denies government interference with independent experts now deciding the site's fate.

The decision is expected in two weeks.