



7 May 2014

Media Release

Bronte Community Calls On Minister Goward To Set The Record Straight

The Department of Planning under the former leadership of Brad Hazzard was recently forced by the NSW Parliament to disclose documents relating to the proposed re-development of the Bronte RSL site.

Developer Winston Langley Burlington (WLB) is seeking to change planning controls to allow the construction of a non-compliant building and the revealed documents show a consistent bias by departmental officers in favour of the developer and against Waverley Council and the Bronte and Clovelly communities. WLB's development application was rejected by the Joint Regional Planning Panel in 2013.

Save Bronte spokesperson, Dr Stephen Lightfoot, said "These documents confirm that the Department is running its own developer-focused agenda at Bronte and no doubt throughout the state. The documents contain false and misleading statements, and omit crucial background information."

At an April 10 meeting with local MP Bruce Notley-Smith and Waverley Mayor Sally Betts, former department Director-General Mr Sam Haddad confirmed that the proposed re-development was a local planning issue. Mr Haddad stated that he saw no impediment to the council LEP amendments being formalised.

Dr Lightfoot said "The department has attempted to subvert local planning processes and take local planning decisions away from Waverley Council."

"It is obvious Brad Hazzard had no control over his department. We are calling on the new minister to rein in this rogue department. Minister Pru Goward needs to reinforce state government planning policy which is designed to allow local communities, through elected councils, the set the rules and vision for development in their local area."

"The Bronte community and Waverley Council have been consistently ignored by the Department of Planning. The department has point blank refused to implement the results of council planning processes, instead throwing its support behind the developer's plans."

"The situation in Bronte is an example of bad planning and bad process. We implore Minister Goward to rectify this situation by immediately accepting the Waverley Council LEP amendments and dismissing WLB's attempts to change planning rules at the RSL site."

ENDS