MEDIA RELEASE

24 October 2012

Randwick Council concerned with Inglis overdevelopment

Randwick City Council has strongly criticised a State Government decision to override Randwick Council's planning powers for a proposed 800-home, nine-storey redevelopment of the former Inglis stableyards site on Barker Street, Randwick.

Randwick Mayor Tony Bowen tabled a Mayoral Minute at last night's (23 October 2012) Council meeting raising serious concern about the decision to appoint the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) as the consent authority.

"Council has dealt with this matter – we considered it in December 2011 and decided not to proceed with the Planning Proposal because of a range of potential negative impacts.

"Now the State Government doesn't like the decision so they are changing the umpire. They hope the JRPP will come to a different view to Council and support this proposal. For the sake of all our local residents I hope this is not the case. The proposal in its current form is an overdevelopment and we have serious concerns about it," Mayor Bowen said.

"I am strongly concerned that the proposal is an overdevelopment of the site in relation to its surrounds, including the Struggletown Conservation Area, schools and open space as well as other potential impacts such as traffic and parking.

"All Planning Proposals should be considered and dealt with by local government. This must be the approach taken as it is consistent with the State Government's repeated advice that all local planning powers will be returned to local government," Mayor Bowen said.

A Planning Proposal must be assessed under the rezoning (LEP) process set out under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 and community consultation is required as part of this process.

"I will nevertheless seek to ensure that Councillors and the community will be informed as to the process and next stages of the rezoning process to be undertaken by the JRPP and opportunities to have a say and raise our concerns," Mayor Bowen said.

ENDS

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