

MEDIA RELEASE



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Mayor calls for public hearing on Inglis rezoning proposal

Randwick Mayor Tony Bowen has called on the State Government to hold a public hearing on the proposal to rezone the Inglis stableyards site on Barker Street, Randwick to allow up to nine storeys.

The Joint Regional Planning Panel green-lighted the public exhibition process on Tuesday overturning Randwick Council's previous rejection of the proposal in December 2011 which was based on significant community concern about over-development.

"I am very concerned with the JRPP's decision on Tuesday to allow this rezoning proposal to be publicly exhibited. The community told us loud and clear last year that 800 new homes in towers of up to nine storeys is just too dense and too tall and would have negative impacts on the surrounding area.

"Council listened and responded by rejecting the proposal. But the State Government didn't like this decision and then decided to appoint a new umpire to consider the application.

"I also call on the State Government to hold an extended public exhibition period so the community has an adequate opportunity to have their say given the significance of this proposal.

"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.

The Joint Regional Panel is a State Government appointed body to oversee major development proposals. It consists of three professional experts and two Randwick Councillors.

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Media Enquiries:

Josh Hay 0402 351 459
Katie Moses 0420 277 567

joshua.hay@randwick.nsw.gov.au
katie.moses@randwick.nsw.gov.au