



West End Community Association Inc.

P.O. Box 3898
South Brisbane QLD 4101

info@weca.org.au
www.weca.org.au

ABN: 38 338 933 037

The Honourable J Trad, MP
10 April, 2016

Dear Jackie

I am writing to bring your attention to a Change.org petition requesting you to “call in” the Absoe site Stage 1 development on Boundary St, West End.

As of Sunday afternoon, almost 1,500 people had signed this petition. This is comparable to the number of people who signed a petition against the Kurilpa Master Plan and Cedar Woods development. The West End Community Association considers this compelling evidence of deep community concern regarding this project.

We reiterate our request that you recognize this project as a matter of state interest and call it in. We ask that you approve it with the condition that the project as a whole is considered impact assessable.

All planning needs to meet with community expectations and this project clearly does not. There has been a consistent history of widespread community action across south east Queensland expressing deep concern at council planning processes in general, as well as to this site specifically.

At the Day of Action in August approximately 400 residents marched between the two mega-developments on the Kurilpa peninsula, the former Distance Education site and the Absoe site. In November a Brisbane Residents United march was attended by approximately 800 people comprised of community groups all over south east Queensland. There was a rally on March 17 organised by our retired Labor councillor Helen Abrahams to protest the approval of Absoe Stage 1 during the Council caretaker period and less than one week before the election.

At meeting with you in 2015 we understood that you would only be able to take action on significant developments where decisions were made that were non-compliant, particularly when there was evidence of strong community opposition to it. We believe this situation meets that criteria.

Allowing the BCC to make this decision sends a message to Council that they can undermine the planning processes without consequence. This has already been allowed to occur at City South Square at Woolloongabba and the Anthony John project in Buranda.

Both cases saw multiple code assessable developments allowed without any requirement for an impact assessable application that ensures proper planning processes for these large significant sites that should be master planned. Without your intervention the Absoe site, a site of state significance, runs the risk of a similar circumventing of proper planning processes and subsequent poor long-term outcomes for Brisbane. It is critical that the community first respond to an impact assessable application as assured by Council.

Thanks for your offer to support the community on this critical development for Brisbane.

Sincerely,

Dr Erin Evans, President,
West End Community Association