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## **1500 Brisbane Residents Sign Petition Against West End Development**

MORE than 1,500 Brisbane residents have signed a petition calling on Deputy Premier Jackie Trad to “call in” the controversial ABSOE development on Boundary Street, West End.

The Change.org [petition](#) asked the State Planning Minister to temporarily halt the project, which the Brisbane City Council approved last month while in caretaker mode and less than one week before the election.

West End Community Association President Dr Erin Evans said the development did not comply with the City Plan or South Brisbane Riverside Neighbourhood Plan and required more scrutiny.

“The response to this petition is clear evidence of the deep community concern about this project,” she said.

“It’s comparable to the 1,700 people who signed a petition against the Kurilpa Draft Master Plan last year.”

Dr Evans called on Ms Trad to make the project approval conditional on the public first having the opportunity to consult to the masterplan, as was promised by BCC former Chair of Planning Amanda Cooper. There are still 2 days for the Minister to act and the community urge the Minister to recognise the state significance of this site and exercise her powers.

To date the Minister has stated that there are no grounds to call in. The community wrote to her on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March asking her to publicly explain her reasons for not intervening and to publish any official advice she had received. We also urged her to reconsider her decision.

“The community has a right to transparency but has not had any meaningful opportunity to understand the details of her decision.”

Dr Evans also wrote to Lord Mayor Graham Quirk insisting that council uphold its own undertaking to ensure the site be master planned before any development be considered. We have also called on the Council to make public how we the developer was enabled to make piecemeal submissions that has resulted in the current messy situation.

“We welcomed a public call in July 2015 from Cr Amanda Cooper, as Chair of Planning, to reject the initial application and require that the site be master planned to provide community certainty,” she said.

“We were dismayed and disappointed when despite these assurances; the Council approved a code assessable Stage 1 development without the master plan in place.

“This undermines planning outcomes for this critical site for Brisbane and also undermines confidence in the Council planning process.”

“All planning needs to meet with community expectations and this project clearly does not.”

ENDS

**For Interviews Please Contact:**

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<https://www.change.org/p/hon-jackie-trad-minister-for-infrastructure-local-government-and-planning-stop-west-end-s-cultural-heartland-being-overshadowed-by-insensitive-corporate-development>