

23rd November 2018

Office of the Lord Mayor
GPO Box 2287
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Lord Mayor Quirk,

Re: Lota House - Proposed Redevelopment affecting State Heritage Building and Heritage Woodlands - Two stages - High Rise Retirement Village

I am writing to you to express my disappointment and sadness with the Brisbane City Council's support for the building of high rise retirement villages in low density suburbs Brisbane. As a result of this support, the Anglican Church and Village Retirement Group propose to build four five and six story high-rise towers in Lota.

Lota boasts a village atmosphere where people of all ages, income and beliefs live together in harmony. Most Lota residents know the aged persons who live in the existing 14 independent small low rise cottages which line the clifftop and will be demolished for Stage 2 of this proposed development.

It is common to see those locals and aged retirees chatting on a late afternoon walk. This access builds on an inclusive society.

Anglicare's proposed exclusive high rise gated community will ensure that the surrounding Lota residents will not be able to have the free access to the grounds as is presently enjoyed. This will create a feeling of exclusiveness not inclusiveness, something which I am sure is not intended, but research reports, is common in high rise dwellings. The gated community will also have an exclusive library, shops, cinema, again, repeating that exclusiveness.

When the Anglican Church purchased Lota House it was with funds bequeathed to them by Sir Edwin Tooth and a Queensland State Government subsidy. The purpose of the legacy as stated was for aged care and education.

Retirement Village Living is Not Aged Care.

I am struggling to find evidence of any crisis in retirement high rise options for those wealthy enough to choose. I note, "Erica" at Coorparoo just recorded three sales of up to \$799,000 for 2 bedroom/bathroom units. I do not dispute that some people may choose high rise as an option, in the same way, they may like to live in a unit or a low level dwelling. But I would argue, these are choices in a free market.

What I am struggling to understand, and this is after much research, is why Brisbane City Council is offering so many incentives for these high rise retirement village developments to be built in low density areas and even, as in the case of the Lota House proposed development, on Heritage protected land.

My research shows that most people prefer to age in place, which means, in their own home and I note, the Federal Government is both encouraging and revising policy to facilitate this.

When I speak to the aged persons who live in the surrounding streets of Lota I see people living independently in their mid to late 80's with some government assistance, and know that the only urgency which does exist, is when those persons decline medically. That is where the shortage and stress is, not with persons 65 plus who are making a life change decision to move into freely

available and competitive retirement villas which, as Anglicare themselves agreed, is for an average 5 year stay.

I am yet to find a 85 year old person who wants to live in a high-rise unit. Their fears are real, fire and lifts and isolation as they age, accordingly they turned up in volumes at the recent "Communication Strategy" designed by the Anglican Church to dispel myths and present a marketing plan for the High Rise Towers - dubbed Retirement Village in Lota House grounds.

And they are angry, feeling they are being used as pawns to facilitate a development proposal they will never use and which will destroy the vista of flora and fauna in Lota House Woodlands forever.

This issue I am speaking to you about is red hot in the community. Not just this community but all over Brisbane, small villages and towns are being inundated with Retirement Villages, whose development is directly supported by BCC to the exclusion of all others. I note in your last Council newsletter of November 2018, you stated that you were going to amend the 2014 City Plan so that high rise development could not occur any more in low density residential.

You did not mention however, in this same newsletter, that your amendment to the Aged Care and Retirement package will in fact allow this to occur, as long as it is marketed to over 65's.

The same consequences, as outlined by you in your newsletter, will occur. Destruction of the character of Brisbane, the iconic backyard, all those things that make Brisbane the city it is, will be gone, forever. Those suburbs like Lota where profit driven (admitted by the Anglican Church in a recent meeting) development is allowed as long as it is branded 'retirement living' will scar the sky line for ever.

I urge you to re consider your support for this kind of wanton development.

Aged Care is not a choice - Retirement Living is.

Voting is not a choice - Voting is Compulsory.

I look forward to your response

Yours sincerely,

Name

Email Address

Address