

22 November 2018

Re: High rise retirement mega construction proposal in sleepy bayside Lota

Dear Minister

I write to you in despair after attending a 'community information night' at Lota House about the proposed retirement units that will desecrate our local and loved landmark of Lota House.

The proposal includes building 4 towers of highrise apartment blocks (and another 4 towers after the first stage) that will obliterate views of the heritage house from 2 street frontages. It is a massive change from woodland and leafy parkland to ugly blocks of units that are totally inappropriate for our quiet neighbourhood. If allowed to go ahead, this proposal will change the entire setting of the heritage buildings as well as any vistas to Lota house.

The proposal includes cutting down 18,000sq m of woodland that currently houses wildlife and birds and is an important part of the Wynnum Manly green belt. I personally have encountered koalas feeding and resting in these trees along side Brahminy kite eagles and hundreds of other animals and birds. This woodland and the view through it to the house are an intrinsic part of the fabric of our community and we, the community, want it to stay.

The Burra Charter has very clear guidelines about the value of heritage properties and their environment. If we don't comply to these important documents set down for our communities, what hope do we have of retaining places of historical value and their surrounding natural settings?

Aged care is important for our community but this development proposal is not for aged care. It is for retirement apartments in a gated property that excludes the very community it inhabits.

After speaking to the agents at the information night, it is clear to me they have no understanding of the impact their proposal will have on our community and really don't care. So it seems, money is the only thing they care about.. at our expense.

Here is my suggestion for this site if the Anglican Church must build something.

1. Following the Swedish model, build a lowrise community kindergarten under the gum trees along Grace Street. Vistas to Lota House could be maintained on both sides of this building.
2. Build more aged care because we need that more than we need retirement apartments, again in lowrise buildings and maintain the vista to Lota House.
3. Build no more than 3 storey retirement apartments to replace the existing independent living quarters when the time is right. This is a compromise but at least it doesn't create an eyesore over the entire site.
4. Restore Lota House and welcome back the neighbourhood. What value is there in restoring Lota House if it's hidden behind ugly highrise away from the community? What value is there if the house is overshadowed and minimised in all directions by huge, modern and uninspiring unit blocks?

I look forward to your reply

Yours faithfully,

Name