



Speech by
Jackie Trad

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Hansard Thursday, 17 May 2012

WEST END, DEVELOPMENT

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (12.57 am): Excessive development remains a major issue in my electorate of South Brisbane. I am proud to live in and represent an area that cares about its local character and environment, and I know many locals want to see this rich diversity preserved. As South-East Queensland's population continues to grow and change, I acknowledge that inner-city areas will bear the greatest burden of that growth. This means more pressure on our infrastructure, on our environment and on our hardworking local services. This growth must be balanced, however, with increased investment in local services such as schools, community organisations and green spaces. We have a choice about how we deal with population growth. On the one hand governments can choose to work with local communities—preserving the area's unique character, increasing sustainability and enhancing connectivity. This approach works. Studies world-wide show that population growth can be accommodated by building limits of six to eight storeys. On the other hand, governments can approve the spread of massive high-rise buildings—ignoring the concerns of locals, destroying character and increasing isolation.

Sadly, the Premier has chosen the second option, last month announcing plans to review the local neighbourhood plan with a view to increasing 12-storey buildings in the area of West End south of Davies Park from Montague Road to the river. Make no mistake: this decision is a direct attack on the character of South Brisbane. What is most worrying about the Premier's plan is that it was deliberately hidden from voters in South Brisbane. During the campaign I repeatedly called on the LNP to state its position on development in West End, and it remained silent. Less than a week after the close of the polls, the Premier and the Brisbane Lord Mayor finally revealed their plan for 12-storey buildings in West End, increasing heights by almost eight levels in some areas.

This is a clear sign of the future under a Newman government—a future where high-rise development will be rushed through with no planning and no accountability or community consultation. The local community has already spoken on this issue. Over 496 submissions were made on the current neighbourhood plan when it was proposed and 4,000 residents signed a petition against 12-storey buildings overshadowing their homes. As Lord Mayor the Premier ignored these concerns and he is again seeking to deny the residents of South Brisbane a say in their own community.

Rampant development will not benefit our local community. The only people to gain from Mr Newman's plans are his LNP mates and wealthy developers. I will fight every day in this chamber to ensure that the concerns of South Brisbane locals are heard and that our community remains a vibrant and inclusive place to live.