



Speech By  
**Amy MacMahon**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### South Brisbane Electorate, Development

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (7.19 pm): Back in 2016 this government introduced Queensland's Planning Act. In that same year Queensland Labor took \$270,000 in donations from property developers. Our planning laws are now so ridiculously stacked in favour of property developers that the community barely gets a look-in. This is all before the Olympics, which will only supercharge overdevelopment and drive up rents, rates and house prices, reinforcing inequality in Queensland.

Now everywhere you turn in South Brisbane it seems there is another developer applying for a tower that is two, eight or 14 storeys over the neighbourhood planned height limits and too often it is being waved through. A particularly outrageous example is the two 26-storey towers proposed to be built right next to Davies Park in West End. The height limit for the site is 12 storeys, but given that our performance based planning scheme is so deeply broken a developer reckons they have a shot at getting 26 storeys approved.

I will read a few excerpts from over 600 community submissions opposing the development. One local resident writes—

I struggle to understand how the limits of six stories and 12 stories is put aside for a 26-storey building. It will set a terrible precedent.

The Kirkwood family writes—

What is the point of planning regulations if developers are pandered to and rules broken?

Julie in West End writes—

Not one resident in this area that I have spoken to is in favour of this development. A better use for this site would be to extend Davies Park to provide more green space for residents.

They are telling our planning minister that, if our performance based planning system is here to be flexible to community needs, this development application needs to be thrown out.

What the community needs is for land to be bought by the state government and council to extend Davies Park. I am really pleased to table a petition from 1,155 locals calling on the planning minister and the Lord Mayor to work together to stop this development and to buy the site for parkland.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding the purchase of 281-297 Montague Road for public parkland [186](#).

Development does not have to equal more traffic congestion, parking issues and crowded green space. It does not have to equal skyrocketing rents and house prices. However, that is what we have been left with after years of a state planning system that was written to maximise developer profits. It is well past time that we overhaul our state based planning laws, make neighbourhood plans binding and put the community at the heart of decision-making. It is time this government removes the caps on infrastructure charges paid for by developers and invests that money in local infrastructure and green space. It is time for inclusionary zoning that prioritises public housing and a planning system that puts the needs of the community ahead of the profits of big developers.