

Maiwar Electorate Office

From: Maiwar Electorate Office
Sent: Tuesday, 4 June 2019 3:23 PM
To: 'lordmayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au'
Subject: Results from Community Vote about the ABC site
Attachments: Graphic summary ABC site vote.pdf; 2019-05 Our ABC Site. Summary of results_ Community Vote about a footbri....pdf

Dear Lord Mayor,

Thank you for your most recent correspondence about the ABC site in Toowong. I appreciate your ongoing engagement with this matter.

I am writing to share the results from the community vote that I recently ran with the support of the Councillor for the Gabba, Jonathan Sri. I have attached some graphic summaries of the results of the vote, as well as a report summarising the community's feedback. I hope you will take some time to carefully consider this information. I have also put a full copy of the transcripts to the substantive questions on my website. I'd love you to read for yourself what residents have been saying: https://www.michaelberkman.com.au/abc_site_results

Close to 2,500 people contributed their thoughts to the vote. Beyond this, more than 100 local residents came to our community forum to share their ideas, and my office has received emails every week about the idea since we first started raised it last year. What this huge result tells me is that residents feel really passionately about that block of land, because they can see its potential. As you will see there has been very limited support for Council's existing zoning and the plan for extra apartment towers. The vast majority (88%) want to see this site bought back for public space, and used as a landing point for a new bridge to West End (90%). Locals have supported options including a new public pool, gardens, a new community hall, and other recreational facilities that could be enjoyed by residents across the city.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that residents overwhelmingly wanted a bridge to West End to be for walking and cycling only. There have been a number of concerns raised about your proposal to put buses over this stretch, which residents fear would cause unnecessary delay, expense and impacts on green space. I understand that Council officers have advised the Gabba Ward office that without longer-term solutions to congestion on Montague Rd, an extra bus connection across the river would be difficult to integrate. They have also advised that the time savings associated with Brisbane Metro mean that the transport planning case for a public transport link at this location is diminished.

I am still open to a discussion about whether the bridge should include buses, but based on the above advice, and on the results of the community vote, I believe a walking and cycling bridge at this location would be preferable. It would do wonders to tackle congestion, by doing the only thing that actually works: getting people out of their cars and using other modes of transport. My position is that bus routes (especially the 60 to the city and 402/412 services to UQ) should be significantly increased to encourage residents on both sides of the river to walk to bus services.

As always, if you'd like to meet or discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to get in touch on 3737 4100 or via maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Kind Regards,

Michael

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