



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

17 June 2021

Cr Adrian Schrinner
Lord Mayor of Brisbane
By email: lordmayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au
CC: Cr Steven Toomey, Cr Peter Matic

Concerns Regarding The Sale Of The Sisters Of Mercy Land

Dear Lord Mayor,

I'm writing regarding an ecologically significant parcel of land at 371 Simpsons Road, Bardon that has just been placed on the market. As you may be aware, this large parcel of land is owned by the Sisters Of Mercy and located near the base of Mt Coot-tha.

The real estate selling the land [has been quoted](#) stating that it could be used for "multi-residential, retirement, gated community, health and wellness precincts or a major home site for a high-net-worth private investor".

Following this, a number of local residents in Bardon and surrounds have reached out to my office, concerned to make sure this site is protected. Many are also concerned that the possible uses listed above may be contrary to the Mt Coot-tha Neighbourhood Plan. In particular they are concerned the site will be subject to significant tree clearing and commercial or residential development.

The Mt Coot-tha Neighbourhood Plan notes that this block contains existing educational establishments and will continue to operate as such. The Neighbourhood Plan also specifies that new buildings must be "limited to existing development footprints". Most of the block is covered by the High Ecological Significance overlay and some of the cleared area is covered by the High Ecological Significance - Strategic overlay. The majority of the site falls under the zoning category of "Community Facilities - Community Purposes".

I share their concerns and am writing to ask you to publicly confirm that Council will ensure any development proposed on the Sisters Of Mercy Land will be required to adhere to the Neighbourhood Plan. The local community would appreciate your public confirmation that developers will not be allowed to circumvent the constraints imposed and the ecological significance recognised in the relevant planning instruments.

Ideally, given the high ecological significance of this area, many in the community and I would like to see Council use their Bushland Acquisition fund to buy the property and protect it.

Visit Us
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I am hoping that, by Brisbane City Council acquiring the land, it could be used to provide a service that is beneficial to the local community. Some suggested uses for the site include the creation of a First Nations cultural centre under joint management with local Traditional Owners, as a public recreation space or as a community centre. I would support these uses, and am sure you can agree there's a significant need for more public infrastructure and community facilities as Brisbane's population grows.

Given the time sensitive nature of this issue, I'd appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Berkman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Berkman MP