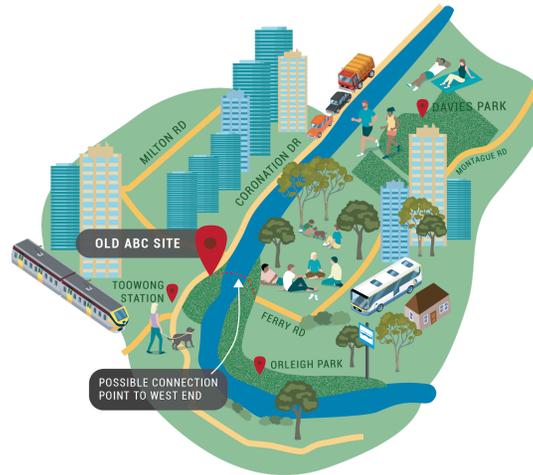


OUR ABC SITE



Summary of results: Community Vote about a footbridge and public space at the ABC Site

Survey conducted by Michael Berkman, MP for Maiwar and Jonathan Sri Councillor for the Gabba Ward.



1.0 Introduction

This document was prepared by Michael Berkman's electorate office. It was created to summarise the results of the community vote about the future of the ABC site so interested parties can understand what locals had to say.

The vote was conducted to seek input from local communities about whether they agreed with Michael and Jonno's suggestion that the site should be bought back by local, State and Federal governments to create new public space, and a landing point for a walking and cycling bridge from Toowong to West End.

The vote included five quantitative (yes/no/not sure) questions, and three open ended questions where people were asked to share more detailed comments or input. It was publicised online through social media, in an electorate wide hard-copy mail out in Maiwar, a smaller targeted mail out to approximately 2,000 residents living in close proximity to the site and through Michael and Jono's email lists.

A total of 2,477 people participated in the vote during while it was open from 13 March to 30 April. Following the analysis of the results, approximately 20 further responses have been received in hard-copy however these have not been included in this summary.

Full transcripts of the comments from qualitative questions are publicly available here: https://www.michaelberkman.com.au/abc_site_results



2.0 Quantitative results

Support walking/cycling bridge:	Should Feds have sold ABC Site?	Should Gov buy back?	What facilities, would you support these?	Support developer Levy?
90% YES	82% NO	88% YES	15% community hall	87% YES
5.5 NO	3% YES	4% NO	37% space for throw frisbee	5% NO
4.5% NOT SURE	15% NOT SURE	8% NOT SURE	76% gardens	8% NOT SURE
			43% BBQs	
			29% public pool	
			68% picnic areas	
			18% courts	
			32% city hopper	

Suburb Information:

Maiwar electorate and west side		
Toowong	434	36.5%
Taringa	165	6.7%
Indooroopilly	136	5.5%
St Lucia	142	5.7%
Auchenflower	86	3.5%
Bardon	72	2.9%



Fig Tree Pocket	24	1.0%
Milton	13	0.5%
Chapel Hill	55	2.2%
Kenmore	35	1.4%
Paddington	28	1.1%
Total Maiwar and west side	1,190	48.0%
Gabba Ward and south side		
West End	406	16.4%
Highgate Hill	103	4.2%
South Brisbane	46	1.9%
Woolloongabba	31	1.3%
Dutton Park	31	1.3%
East Brisbane	28	1.1%
Kangaroo Point	16	0.6%
Total Gabba Ward and south side	661	26.7%
Other Suburbs	626	25.3%
Grand Total	2,477	

3.0 Qualitative results

3.1 Do you have any further comments about a bridge?

This question received almost double the number of qualitative responses as the other two open ended questions. This makes sense, given for people on the West End side, a bridge would have more impact on their lives than buying back the ABC site for public space. The comments were broadly in favour of a walking and cycling bridge, and about 50% of the comments overall didn't contain much in the way of specific comments, rather statements like "yes do it!" or "I would love this". Many participants had in-depth comments about design, specific location, or further questions. Below the common trends are categorised and summarised.

Comments about car vs bus vs walking & cycling only:

Overall the feedback from people who left comments reflected the 90% support for a walking and cycling bridge from the first question. An overwhelming number of people expressly stated they did not want cars or buses on the bridge, more still implied this in their response. The biggest trend by far across the responses was concern about traffic and congestion. Most respondents made a link between getting people out of cars and encouraging other means of transport. Some people expressed support for a car bridge, though, usually because they did not connect an active transport bridge with reductions in congestion. Buses were not mentioned an overwhelming amount, but our statement at the top of the survey that BCC views buses as impractical at this location would have had some impact on this.

<u>Type of comment</u>	<u>Summary of concern/reasoning</u>	<u>Example of the comment</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Walking and cycling only	An explicit mention of merits of walking/cycling bridge OR statement that they would only support if walking/cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "I would only support this bridge if it was for pedestrians and bikes, it must not allow for cars" - "It makes total sense to allow people on both sides of the river to use active transport to get across the river. It would encourage people not to drive and do wonders for congestion" - "I would LOVE to be able to leave my car" 	Very common feedback. Approx 208 people.	By far most popular option.



		<p>at home and walk to the West End Markets”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Pedestrian/bike access ONLY. Definitely no cars or buses.” 		
Wants buses to be considered	Expressed support for the bridge to take buses/PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “It would be good if it also included buses, like the bridge at UQ” - “ I think the bridge should accept the future need for a PT link here and be big enough to accommodate buses” 	Some concern. Approx 31 people.	Mixture of comments, not as many strong feelings: from “must include buses” and also just “I wonder if buses could be re-considered? This might help ease congestion along Montague” etc.
Wants car bridge	Thinks there is a need for a car link at this location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “What about a car bridge here?” - “Any bridge should also allow for cars so that we can reduce congestion on coronation drive” - “There are already too many useless bridges that don’t allow for cars” 	Some concern. Approx 40 people.	A mixture of very adamant comments about needing car bridge, and some just suggesting it eg “it seems logical it should take cars, could this be reconsidered?”

Broad comments relating to support:

<u>Type of comment</u>	<u>Summary of concern/reasoning</u>	<u>Example of the comment</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Notes</u>
General support	Comment of support or about how they would use such a bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Do it!” - “This would be an amazing active transport link for me to get to work in West End” - “I would use this all the time!” - “I live in Auchenflower but all my friends live in West End and it takes SO long to see them if I catch public transport, I would so love to be able just just walk to the markets and meet up with them, or ride over after work, BIG yes from me!” 	The most frequent sentiment. Approx 411 people.	
Adamantly opposed to a	Would not support a bridge, numerous reasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Terrible idea” - What an absolute waste of money. We 	Not common. Approx 10 people.	Some others expressed reservations, but not outright



bridge or any kind		already have enough bridges, spend the money on XXXX instead"		opposition, eg "I'd like to know it would be used before I support" or "Depends how much it would cost". Those are recorded under sep categories.
Location	Wants bridge, but in another location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "I'd prefer a bridge to St Lucia be prioritised" - "It should land at Forbes St [West End], not Ferry Rd" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 31 people mentioned St Lucia. - 3 want landing at Forbes St - 8 people want further downstream (landing near Regatta or Drift). 	St Lucia bridge mentioned frequently. Some people want that bridge prioritised, or think it'd be more useful. Others want them to be built in tandem to create a single, multi-bridge route to UQ.

Particular features of a bridge

Overall a large number of people had creative suggestions about what the bridge could include both from a practical standpoint and from a creative/design point of view. In general, people were keen for the bridge to have safe, separated lanes, and include recreational features along the way, as well as be shaded from the rain/sun. Strong sentiment that it should be a "simple" but "beautiful" design.

<u>Type of comment</u>	<u>Summary of concern/reasoning</u>	<u>Example of the comment</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Design	Particular thoughts about the bridge's design being important.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "As long as it's a beautifully designed" - "Only support if it wouldn't ruin a beautiful stretch of the river" - "I would support a beautiful, well-designed bridge" - "Any bridge should be "low impact on the visual amenity of the river" - "Any bridge should be designed as a piece of public art and offer a shaded route for people to use in the day" 	Commonly raised. 67 people.	Number of mentions of the Kurilpa bridge (some love it, some hate it)



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "It's important that any bridge wasn't built from ugly concrete that would detract from the beautiful ABC site" 		
Features the bridge should have	Numerous misc suggestions raised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggestions of musicians to perform along the bridge, coffee carts, viewing platforms, art and sculptures along the way and seats to make the bridge useable public space in and of itself. - "It would be wonderful if the bridge was like the highline in New York- an attractive, interesting public space in and of itself where people could come and sit/read/enjoy the bridge itself" 	Each specific suggestion was raised about 3-8 times. Sentiment included in many of the above responses^^	Viewing platforms, greenery and seats most common features.
Shade	Strong sentiment that the bridge should be designed in a way that would keep it cool in Brisbane's summer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "The bridge should be covered all the way along to protect from sun and shade" - "Make sure it's covered and is built from materials that are designed to stay cool. Greenery along the way would also help with this. 	Reasonably common concern. 20 people.	
Greenery/env ironmental impact	Agreed that green space lost must be offset, or general sentiment that green space was priority for them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "I agree with the statement about green space" 	Commonly raised. 52 people.	A common sentiment of support for bridge landing at ABC site for this reason. Note: some west enders concerned about losing access to their green space (because more people)- want to see that offset.
Concerned about cost	Thought money better spent elsewhere, or that it was a waste of money.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "How much would something like this cost? Would it just be a bandaid fix?" - "What a complete waste of money" 	Not a common concern, 16 people.	Some of these simply raised cost as a factor, didn't necessarily say they wouldn't support.
Bike lanes	Want to ensure safe, separated bike lanes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Make sure bikes have their own lanes" 	Reasonably common, 25 people.	
General	Concerns about pedestrian safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Make sure bikes follow speed limits" 	Not a common	



concern about cyclists	or impacts of bikes on the tranquility.	- "I worry about influx of bikes whizzing past my house"	concern, 6 people.	
Steepness	Want to ensure bridge isn't too steep.	- "It's important it isn't too steep, I hate riding on the Go Between for that reason"	Not very common. 6 people.	A few people also questioned how steep it would need to be to go over ferries etc. Also a few mentioned need to be above flood waters.

Comments about other transport

A large number of people raised the question of a ferry. About half of these seemed to support a ferry being prioritised over a bridge, and the need for a new stop for Victoria St in West End was explicitly mentioned a fair amount. The other half just raised it as a question or suggestion. I think this is an issue we need to explicitly think about and respond to (especially Jonno).

<u>Type of comment</u>	<u>Summary of concern/reasoning</u>	<u>Example of the comment</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Notes</u>
City Hopper	Mixture of comments about reinstating the cityhopper either as a stopgap (until bridge), instead of bridge, or with the bridge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "What about a city hopper ferry instead? I imagine that would be a lot cheaper" - "I am elderly and can't use a bridge, but a ferry would be good" - "We desperately need a ferry across the river too" 	Commonly raised. 45 people.	About 1/3 of these were comments like "just have a cross river ferry instead, we don't need a bridge", and the rest either "cityhopper until the bridge is built!" or "I would like to know about how much cheaper a city hopper would be."
Need for ferry at Victoria St (or moving current ferry stop at WE)	Expressed urgent need for Victoria St Ferry Stop.	- "The priority needs to be a new ferry stop for West End!"	18 people	
Need for bus improvements on	Sentiment about how the bridge should connect people with frequent bus routes on both sides.	- "We need more frequent bus services on Corro Drive. These should be improved so people can walk over the	Not very common. 11 people	



Corronation Drive /Montague Rd	Also a number mentioned it would be good to use bridge as impetus to improve cycle paths on both sides.	- bridge and jump on" "It would be important to ensure it connects well with key cycle infrastructure"		
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Misc other comments

<u>Type of comment</u>	<u>Summary of concern/reasoning</u>	<u>Example of the comment</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Benefits for public health	Expressed support for active transport bridge specifically because it will encourage active lifestyle and bring broader public health benefits.	- "Getting people out of their cars and exercising more is crucial for a healthy society. We are not moving enough!!"	Reasonably common. 27 people	
General need to ease congestion	General comment about the impact congestion has on their life/need to do something.	- "Would this reduce traffic in Toowong? If it would, even a little bit, I would support it" - "Anything that might ease congestion on Montague Rd would be good"	Reasonably common. 32 people.	
Urgency	Sense of "do it NOW!"	- "We've already been waiting so long for this bridge. It's so overdue. Just do it!"	Reasonably common. 20 people.	

Overall takeaways:

- Overall there is a wide ranging support for a walking cycling bridge. Even though the online vote is reasonably self-selecting, the figures online compared with hard-copy (delivered through a targeted local resident mail out) were fairly on par when it comes to support.
- Many people still failing to make this link ie- "congestion Corro Drive is SO bad, this bridge MUST allow for cars to plan for the future. Reducing congestion must be a priority". So some people do not connect increased active transport to reductions in congestion. This is something we should work on communicating better.
- There is a need for public transport and active transport options on both sides to be improved if the bridge is walking/cycling only.
- Amongst West End residents especially there is a clear need for better public transport options, namely a new ferry stop at Victoria St, West End. Jonathan Sri has already been advocating for this.



3.2 If this site could be converted into public space, how would you like to see the site used? Please leave any other ideas:

Along with a few suggestions to get people thinking (these are ranked in % above), respondents were asked to leave any ideas about how they would like the site to be used.

It is more difficult to separate these responses into core concerns or suggestions because of how different people interpreted the question. It was also trickier to quantify how many people mentioned each. Some suggestions were implicit, or more vague, while other people responded to the question with concrete suggestions or ideas. Therefore the results here have been summarised to reflect trends. Each is identified as “reasonably popular” (mentioned more than a 5-10 times), “popular” (10-25 times) “very popular”(25+ times). “Key theme” reflects trends that were implied or explicitly referenced but don’t relate to a specific facility eg “park should be peaceful and tranquil”.

Most people who responded suggested a number of different facilities for the site. Others made broad comments about the need for this site to be public space, or about how much they would use it. Overall the below are some of the most striking/common suggestions and broad trends in the results. Generally speaking a vast majority of participants who left comments supported the space being a public park. There was a strong trend toward this being a space “everyone can enjoy”, and a big emphasis across the board on the need for it to be as green as possible, with lots of trees for shade. Another strong trend seemed to be that people didn’t mind too much what happened, and said things like ‘anything other than apartments’, or “as long as it’s public space I don’t care what’s there”.

Many respondents compared existing public spaces they loved with the site, saying for example “this would complement Orleigh park so well”, or “It could be a huge park on the river just like New Farm, the west side desperately needs that!” South bank was also used as an example of the possibilities for a mixed use public space.

A number of people noted that they felt further consultation about specific ideas should be completed if the site was bought back.

Overall key trends

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
As “green” as possible!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- “The site should be kept as “green as possible”. Minimal concrete and other stuff. Just trees, grass, and the absolute necessary infrastructure”- “I don’t really mind as	Overall sentiment that the site should be beautiful and green, with lots of trees was very common, and often implied.	Very popular/key theme



	<p>long as we preserve as much green space as possible”</p>		
Mixed use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “The site is huge, let’s have all of these amazing ideas!” - “We could have something for everyone at the site” 	<p>There was also a common trend of responses such as “I don’t mind what happens there, just make it public!” or similar.</p> <p>There was a strong acknowledgement that the site is very big, and if it were converted into public space, a large number of facilities could be installed.</p> <p>People are excited about the potential this huge riverfront land holds.</p>	Very popular/Key theme
Importance of involving First Nations people and consulting with TOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “It would be excellent to have a cultural heritage space on site” - “We should consult with TOs and see what they want. This should be prioritised” 	<p>This featured through a number of ways eg generally consult with what TOs want, but also suggestions for a meeting space for sovereign peoples in the building, a cultural heritage walk or space etc.</p>	Very popular
Open space important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “As much open, green space as possible to have picnics and let my kids run around” - “The space near the river should be left as open as possible for everyone to enjoy” 	<p>Note that a large majority of respondents who didn’t complete extra suggestions voted for “a spot to have a picnic” which would indicate that this is an important element for many people.</p>	Popular
Bridge should be integrated with the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “The ABC site is the perfect landing point for the bridge. It’d be great to have a beautiful lead up to the bridge with trees and greenery, that should also continue along the bridge over to West End” 	<p>Note: for some respondents, the bridge is by far the priority. While there are some who are definitely concerned about how much green space a bridge would take up. Overall this wasn’t a huge trend though, and most people dealt with the bridge/park as two separate questions.</p> <p>Integrating the two was always an assumption of</p>	Popular



		the vote, so it is not surprising that many people didn't address it separately.	
Concerns about cancer cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Are we sure that the risk of cancer is eliminated?" - "Didn't a number of people die because of contamination on the site. Is it all safe now? I need more info about this." 	<p>This came up a fair number of times. We definitely need to address these concerns in more detail.</p> <p>Note that two separate scientific studies failed to find any environmental cause of the historic cancer cluster at the site. Residential development generally presents a higher risk, given that no one will be staying at the park long-term.</p>	Popular
Absolutely NO apartments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Honestly, anything on this site that isn't more apartments would be great" - As long as there's no new apartments there I am happy" 	General sentiment that the whole site should be public space was common, and also a safe assumption in about ¾ of responses (ie comments like "I would love if this site was reclaimed as public space).	Key theme
Toowong desperately needs this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "As a resident nearby I know that my neighbours and I would use a park here all the time" - With the current rate of growth for apartments in Toowong it makes a whole lot of sense for this site to be bought back and returned to the public" 	Overall a VERY strong sentiment of support for a park of any description.	Key theme

Specific facilities

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
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Community gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "What about some garden allotments for people living in the apartment blocks nearby to grow food. - "A community garden would be perfect here!" 	Extremely popular suggestion. Probably the most commonly suggested individual idea. Education themes were strong here- ie people saying if we have gardens then people can learn about how to grow food etc. Lots of comments about how a community garden could integrate with other elements of the space (eg farmer's markets or education centre in heritage building).	Very popular
Lots of big trees/vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Trees! Just lots of trees for shade and environmental benefit. Without trees Brisbane parks are just too hot." - "Just plant lots and lots of native trees and plants!" 	The importance of shade as well as trees for wildlife was a common theme. Specifically there were many respondents who talked about keeping the site as minimal as possible (just lots of vegetation etc) to ensure it was good habitat for wildlife. There was also substantial support for native trees and plants.	Very popular
A natural amphitheatre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "It would be so cool to have a stage or a natural amphitheatre for live music or events" - "An outdoor stage like at Bunyapa Park would be amazing here" 	There were also a number of suggestions about having open air cinema nights, these two elements could be combined.	Very popular
Cafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "It'd be nice if there was somewhere to sit and have a coffee undercover" - "It'd be cool to have a social enterprise cafe or a cafe that makes food with the veggies from the garden" 	<p>There weren't a huge number of comments of support for commercial ventures on the site, but a number of people explicitly mentioned that it would be nice to have a cafe or coffee kiosk of some description. Some suggested the heritage building could house this, and that it could have some relationship with community gardens also on the site.</p> <p>A number of people also suggested a coffee cart in their responses to the bridge question.</p>	Popular
A place to have markets sometimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Having markets there sometimes could be cool" 	A space for markets, possibly integrated with other features on site (eg a cafe, live performances, hall or community gardens)	Popular
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "It would be great to feature some public art throughout 	Suggestions about art popped up in numerous forms. Both suggestions for public art on site, and suggestions	Popular



	the site”	for artists to rent space in the community meeting rooms, and in other forms such as murals etc.	
Play equipment	- “Some creative equipment for kids would be great”	There were also a number of suggestions for an accessible playground.	Popular
Bike access	- Need a safer way to ride through/around the site - “Good cycling access should be a priority”	A number of specific mentions about the need to integrate with existing cycling routes and for good cycling routes to key spots on the west side.	Popular

Note: Suggestions like BBQs, picnic areas etc not mentioned because they were already addressed in the tick-box quantitative question. It should be noted that there is strong support for a pool in the comments. More than any other idea included in the tick boxes. Many respondents reflected how angry they remain that the old Toowong pool was sold. A number of people explicitly stated that this was their priority, and noted the strong need in the western suburbs. A large number also suggested water features for kids as a suitable alternative if a pool was not possible.

The Community Hall/Space was another suggestion that people wanted and mentioned a lot. There were many ideas proposed for how such a space could be used such as art studios, a cultural heritage centre, and meeting rooms for hire.

Other ideas that came up more than a couple of times:

- Skatepark
- Permanent ping pong tables
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Put a new school there
- Bike repair stations
- Rotunda for weddings
- Water park

Overall takeaways:

- There were a huge number of amazing ideas for the site. Overall though, there was a strong sentiment that the site should be returned to the public, and as long as there’s plenty of green space, many people don’t mind exactly what happens to the site.
- More consultation once specific plans which incorporate a number of these elements into the park have been created would be a good step moving forward. It is difficult to tell what ideas people are make or break on, versus what are mere suggestions or thought bubbles that they aren’t attached to.
- Generally people want facilities on the site that create amenity for local residents. This included both plenty of passive space to simply enjoy walking/sitting by the river/picnicking with friends etc, and other more active elements like community garden, BBQs, space for workshops and talks, performances and markets. Overall there is a strong sentiment that people feel a space like this would dramatically improve community life in Toowong, allowing people a space to congregate, meet, connect and engage, in whatever form that took for them.

Some overall tensions

- Parking was mentioned as a concern for many people. Slightly more mentioned that they were concerned there wouldn’t be enough parking if it were to



- become a park. Others explicitly mentioned they did not want any of the valuable land being used as parking.
- Tension between creating a space that is as “green” (tree filled) as possible vs a mixed use space (cafe, community garden, etc). Some folks definitely want the site to be kept as “natural” as possible.
- Difficult to ascertain which ideas people felt super strongly about vs just throwing out a suggestion. Any further plans should be subject to more consultation.

3.3 Do you have any other comments about what should happen at this site? Please use this space as an opportunity to express any specific thoughts, ideas or concerns:

These comments largely reflected the above two questions so were not categorised in the same way. At least half the comments were along the vein of “we really need a park here”/“I agree completely that we need a park”/“this should be public space, not for private developers”. About 10% were comments not in favour of a park (which reflects the overall support level in the quantitative questions). These were for various reasons, some specific concerns, others felt Toowong did have enough public space and a substantial percentage (of the 10%) simply felt it was a good site for development to go ahead. It seems a few people who may not have answered above used this question as their opportunity to explain reasoning for their vote (either about bridge, buying land back or about the developer tax question).

A large number of respondents added or reiterated suggestions about particular facilities they wanted to see at the site (generally similar trends to above with a particular focus on “green” space and “lots of trees”). A common comment was left about the need for Toowong residents to have “access” to the river, and for people to simply enjoy and appreciate being near it.

The cancer cluster issue came up again a few times, as did importance of recognition for Traditional Owners. About ¼ explicitly mention the need for “as much green space as possible” or something along that vein.

Large number of comments along the vein of simply “yes! Let’s make it happen” or expressing excitement about the possibilities for the site. Another common trend amongst these comments (and throughout) was about the investment that buying this site back would be for the future. Many people made comments like this one:

“Green space is something that can almost never be returned to the community once development has occurred. We may never get another chance at this- for the long term good of people in Brisbane it is quite obvious that the best use of this site is to provide parkland and a green bridge that facilitates access to the parkland”

Another common comment was about how much people disliked the “Champagne flutes” and how happy they are to see them go, while a few people expressed their disappointment at the planning decision, and were “looking forward” to that development.

A final common theme was messages directly to Michael/Jonno or acknowledgement that they were happy to be asked and have the opportunity to share their views.