

MICHAEL BERKMAN MP

Queensland Greens Member for Maiwar



Mount Coot-tha Zipline

Some of the key concerns include:

- **Commercialisation of public space**

With zipline rides priced at over \$100, this project is clearly designed for tourists, not locals. The fundamental objection at the core of this issue is that a cherished communal, shared green space will become a privatised commercial venture - a shift that will most likely change the inherent character of the Mountain and the Botanic Gardens. The Deeds of Grant in Trust (DOGIT), for the lands on which the Mount Coot-tha precinct is located, were designed to protect the land for public enjoyment. Instead, the zipline project uses public land for profit by a private company.

- **Lack of community consultation by Council**

It is clear community members have a lot to say about the ziplines; my office has coordinated community forums attended by hundreds of passionate locals. However, the only consultation held by Council was four information sessions, over 10 days, after the tender for the project had already been awarded.

In particular, it is unclear whether Council has consulted with the First Nations owners of the land where the zipline is proposed. When asked, Council has been unwilling to share any information about whether Traditional Owners have been consulted, and the outcomes of such discussions.

In July 2018 the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Anthony Lynham requested Council prepare a land management plan because the zipline traverses the DOGIT. Despite the zipline being ultimately a private enterprise, taxpayer funds will be used to prepare that plan, as well as the development application itself.

www.michaelberkman.com.au

1/49 Station Road, Indooroopilly • PO Box 423, Indooroopilly Centre QLD 4068
P: 07 3737 4100 • E: maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au

- **Conflicts of interest**

Many community members have raised concerns about the potential conflicts of interest, given that Council is both the proponent of the project and the assessment manager. That is, Council will fund and prepare a development application for the zipline, then submit it for approval, to... itself.

- **Environmental impacts**

No independent environmental impact assessments have been undertaken. This means we have no reliable information on how risks to ecosystems, endangered species and other wildlife will be mitigated during the construction and operation of the zipline.

Concerns surrounding the threat of bushfires in the region, and the risks associated with erosion and deforestation remain unaddressed. Particularly, there is a need to consider the impact of climate change under the Planning Act.

- **Impact on local residents and space**

The zipline has been pursued by Council without a traffic management plan, or even an assessment of how the tourism venture will impact congestion in the area. Noise pollution associated with the zipline is expected to affect local residents and animals until 9:30pm on days of operation.

The well-loved Botanic Gardens is also likely to be impacted by vegetation removal, noise, traffic, destruction of visual amenity.