



**Michael Berkman MP**  
For Maiwar ▲

5 February 2020

Cr Adrian Schrinner  
Lord Mayor, Brisbane City Council  
By email: [lordmayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:lordmayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Cc: Cr James Mackay

**124 Sherwood Road, Toowong**

Dear Lord Mayor Schrinner,

I am writing to draw your attention to an opportunity to support the westside community by protecting local heritage and biodiversity in Toowong.

A site at 124 Sherwood Road has recently been listed for sale. It contains the last remnants of dense vegetation in the area, in addition to a heritage-listed house. One of my constituents recently got in touch with me, fearful that a developer will acquire this site and replace the trees with new apartments. Given our increasingly vanishing green spaces, I understand this resident's concerns.

Unfortunately, the vegetation on the site isn't protected by Council's biodiversity overlay mapping. Our planning laws are ill-equipped to recognise the importance of inner-city vegetation, and they don't provide real avenues for residents to protect valuable lots of land like this.

Council could acquire this property and dedicate the building to a community facility, such as a hall, museum or other multi-purpose public space. Toowong is under-served when it comes to community spaces, and I know that local residents would have lots of ideas about the best use for such an area.

As you know, I have been advocating for new public spaces on the west side, particularly at the former ABC site. I understand from Council that you are reluctant to buy back that site for a new park because of the increased land cost after the Federal government sold it to private developers in 2013.

With this in mind, I urge you to move quickly and acquire this land to avoid missing another opportunity for new public space in Toowong. 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,

Michael Berkman MP

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