

Foundation president of Brisbane Residents United, Elizabeth Handley has over 14 years' experience with town planning. The residents group she founded, CRAMED stopped the excessive development of the Milton Tennis Court Site. It is now the highly successful Frew Park, enjoyed by the Brisbane community. She is currently working with the residents group, Park It, to have the former ABC site at Toowong turned into riverside parkland. Elizabeth believes the cost of poor development lingers long after developers and their profits have left.

Elizabeth's Speech at the November 15 Brisbane Residents United Rally

Change is good and with us always. There is a need to continually update and increase residential options. Our city is growing rapidly and we need planning legislation that meets that challenge.

But population growth and fast social change increases the need for strong town planning quality standards, it does not reduce that need.

On Thursday, the Government tabled their new planning legislation. It is designed to greatly reduce town planning controls. It has been designed in consultation with developers, for the benefit of developers. But about the people urban developments are for? Us, the citizens, and the future citizens. Our children and our children's children.

Where is amenity defined and protected in the legislation?

It isn't.

Where are the town planning controls that would build and protect the future quality of community life. Those controls are being removed.

What about ensuring residential infrastructure matches transport infrastructure?

What about green space per resident?

What about air flow and shadowing and soundproofing?

Where are the controls that would build healthy and happy communities?

These controls are being removed.

What is our town planning now, just stacking boxes. Do we want to guarantee social dysfunctions?

How can we demand that our elected officials maintain the social contract to protect the whole community interest and make sure growth is good? How can we protect the future for our children and our children's children?

Both the major parties have put forward planning legislation. EDO and QCC have prepared a scorecard and it isn't looking good.

To have your feelings known about this legislation we need to you to prepare submissions to the Parliamentary Committee?

Request to make a presentation to the Parliamentary Committee. Speak to your local Council and State representatives. Tell them the changes you would like to see in the planning system.

Speak to your friends and neighbours and ask them to do the same. Brisbane Residents United is holding a candidates forum in February so that you can get to ask the candidates questions and ascertain their views and listen to their commitments on planning.