

## **Bayside Bulletin, Thursday September 2, 2004**

### **Group fights urban sprawl**

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An alliance of local residents and community groups has formed in the Redlands in an effort to rescue the shire from further urban expansion.

The Community Alliance for Responsible Planning (CARP) has been formed in response to the Redland Shire Council's decision this year to revise the Redland Shire Draft Planning Scheme to allow for more housing for major population increases over the next 12 years.

CARP'S goal is to ensure the shire's remaining open spaces are not consumed by housing and other developments and the urban "footprint" remains unchanged in the Redlands Planning Scheme and the South East Queensland 2021 Regional Plan.

"The Council's move (to revise the draft Planning Scheme) was a betrayal of the express wishes of the Redlands residents who made it very clear during the Statement of Proposals consultation phase that we wanted to retain the urban footprint and limit population growth," CARP spokeswoman Lavinia Wood said.

"The revised Draft Scheme now with the State Government was changed by the new Council immediately after the March election in a no consultation, behind closed doors process, and so represents the wishes of no one but Mayor Don Secombe and the six Councillors who voted with him."

The group has already sent "hundreds" of letters to the State Government and the Redland Shire Council, Ms Wood said.

"This is the only way to protect our quality of life and the environmental, bushland and landscape values that make living in the Redlands so special."

In response, Mayor Don Secombe said there were "some small groups that would like to make themselves seem the majority".

"The job this council has to do is make decisions based on what the majority think and not what the small groups would like to think the majority think.

"There's no doubt the majority of Redlanders are comfortable with an expanded footprint if it's done with sensitivity and with environmental enhancement.

Cr Secombe said he had proof the community agreed with Council's decision and this research would be available to the public "very shortly".

"We want to leave this Shire in an even better environmental state at the end of this council term than at the beginning," he said.

CARP is calling for others to join their alliance. More information can be found on the CARP website at [www.carp-redlands.org.au](http://www.carp-redlands.org.au), or by e-mailing CARP at [contact@carp-redlands.org.au](mailto:contact@carp-redlands.org.au). People can also write to PO Box 427 Capalaba 4157 or fax CARP on 3822-4943.