

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Saturday 10 September 2005**

## **BEATTIE IGNORES WHISTLE BLOWERS**

Residents will gather en masse at the State Government's Redland Community Cabinet Meeting this Sunday to spell out quite clearly to Premier Peter Beattie that his Government has abandoned the people of the Redlands.

For more than a year, Redland residents have been blowing the whistle on a questionable association between local government and developers, only to be ignored by the State Government.

More than 5000 submissions were sent by Redlanders to the Draft SEQ Regional Plan, and nearly 7000 submissions were made to the Draft Redlands Planning Scheme. In both cases the resounding message was that the massive urban sprawl promoted by the Redland Shire Council in these planning documents was not wanted in the Redlands, and had to be stopped.

"What's more, hundreds of residents have through submissions, letters, faxes and email highlighted that the Redland Shire Council is acting in a very questionable fashion. They have clearly made known to the State Government some of the very questionable actions and decisions made by this Council, only to be disregarded," said Lavinia Wood, spokesperson for the Community Alliance for Responsible Planning (CARP) Redlands Inc.

More recently, three Redland Shire Council internal auditors were effectively sacked by the Redland Shire Council while carrying out the obligations and responsibilities of their respective positions.

"We have had all three auditors removed in one day from their employment with Redland Shire Council. This extraordinary event, most probably a first for Queensland, says much about Redland Shire Council but the big disappointment is why has the State Government - tasked with the responsibility of protecting these whistleblowers - simply left them to languish?" Ms Wood continued.

The State Government will hold its next Community Cabinet Meeting in the Redlands this Sunday 11 September commencing at 1:00 pm. The venue is the Victoria Point State High School Student Centre (large building indoor sports centre) 93 - 131 Benfer Road, Victoria Point.

"We will be asking Mr Beattie some very pointed questions," Ms Wood said.

"What confidence can the community have in this government when the Minister responsible for the SEQ Regional Plan supported massive tracts of urban expansion in the Redlands and across South East Queensland, then quit and joined a major developer only weeks later? Is the Beattie government representing the people of Queensland?"

"Mr Beattie is going to get the message that we want a public inquiry, and we want a government that supports the community. If this government won't deliver in this regard, then there's little doubt they will find themselves making way for those who will."

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Lavinia Wood

**Spokesperson**

**Community Alliance for Responsible Planning (CARP) Redlands Inc**