

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 27 October 2004

Redlands Betrayed By Regional Plan

"Although we heartily congratulate the State Government for its initiative in developing a master plan for South East Queensland, we are dismayed that the Hon Minister Terry Mackenroth has turned his back on the people of the Redlands by delivering a Draft Regional Plan which supports even more urban expansion," Lavinia Wood, spokesperson for the Community Alliance for Responsible Planning (CARP) said today.

"Mr Mackenroth's failure to recognise that the Redlands has reached its geographical limits to growth sets the Government at loggerheads with Redlanders. While a handful of developers and landholders stand to make large financial gains, much more will be lost by the people of our Shire as the open space and remnant bushland habitats are carved up. The fact that the additional land designated for urban development is earmarked for release after 2026 does nothing to mitigate the gross negative impact of this decision, just simply postpones it."

"Our quality of life is already impacted by the consequences of rapid urbanisation – daily traffic jams, hard infrastructure diminishing our village atmosphere and scenic landscapes, disappearing open space and dwindling koala numbers."

"With a current mainland population of about 124,000 the Redlands still hasn't reached the 148,600 total we made provision for in our 1998 Strategic Plan. To agree to take on any more now or in the future, when we don't yet know what life will be like with another 25,000 people in the Shire, is nothing less than irresponsible."

"We say to Mr Mackenroth that now is not the time for a bob each way. It is the time for leadership, for visionary and courageous decisions that will safeguard the future not only for us, but for our children and their children after that. It is time to put a stake in the sand with respect to development in the Redlands by retaining the current urban footprint. Redlanders will be calling for Mr Mackenroth to change the Regional Plan accordingly."

"People can take immediate action by going to the State Government website www.parliament.qld.gov.au to sign an electronic petition found by clicking on 'Petitions', 'Current E-Petitions' and Petition No 365-04, and by contacting CARP on www.carp-redlands.org.au."

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Lavinia Wood

Spokesperson

Community Alliance for Responsible Planning (CARP) Redlands