

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday 02 December 2004**

## **CARP Questions Mystery Survey**

"CARP questions why Mayor Don Seccombe chooses to endorse the findings of a private survey apparently spontaneously commissioned and paid for by unidentified individuals just prior to the March election, yet declined to consult Redlanders when making significant changes to the Shire's Draft Planning Scheme (Town Plan) developed by our community in a properly validated process over more than two years", Lavinia Wood, spokesperson for CARP (Community Alliance for Responsible Planning) said today.

"Even more troubling is that it appears our Mayor does not know who commissioned the survey, but has embraced its findings nevertheless, or worse still, that he is choosing to withhold the identity of these people from the community. Either way, it appears that individuals with the inclination and resources to design and conduct a survey for private purposes may be granted fast-track access to Council's policy and planning framework, through the Office of the Mayor. This is an extraordinary state of affairs."

"By actively promoting the survey's findings to key decision makers, the Mayor again brings Council's credibility on open and accountable community consultation into question."

- ends -

Lavinia Wood

**Spokesperson**

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