

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 31 August 2005

CARP RESPONDS TO MAYOR

"Mayor Don Seccombe's insistence that the people of the Redlands do not want to put a stop to urban sprawl is easily debunked. The principle of 'no expansion' was developed, tested and confirmed through a full and proper statutory consultation process during the 2002 Statement of Proposals phase of the Draft Redlands Planning Scheme. This community position was later confirmed in the CARP sponsored Community Survey in February 2005 in which only 10% of the residents surveyed supported expansion of the urban footprint, while 20% preferred higher buildings in our town centres and a whopping 68% preferred limiting population growth altogether," Lavinia Wood, spokesperson for the Community Alliance for Responsible Planning (CARP) Redlands Inc, responded today.

"As Councillor Craig Ogilvie stated in his speech to Council's Special Meeting last week, he has yet to meet anyone without a vested interest who supports urban sprawl. And Councillors Henry, Elliott, Bowler and Murray agreed with him as they voted together in an unsuccessful attempt to stop it."

"What's more, the notion that all statements made during an election campaign automatically carry public endorsement and therefore can be implemented without further reference to the community is a nonsense. An election is not a referendum. What Mayor Seccombe and his Councillors won at the election was the right to test their pro-expansion policies with the community. This was not done, and instead the previous Council's 'no expansion' Draft Redlands Planning Scheme was revised behind closed doors to include huge tracts of urban sprawl."

"Lastly, Mayor Seccombe's comments appear to indicate no appreciation for the fundamental principle that democracy is based on the voice of the people, and that the donations which have been made to CARP and which continue to flow in, are from Redlanders willing to put their hands in their own pockets to ensure that voice is heard with no vested interest other than to protect our wonderful Shire."

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Lavinia Wood

Spokesperson

Community Alliance for Responsible Planning (CARP) Redlands Inc