

HIGH RISE OUTBREAK IN LIDCOMBE

The first of several high rise buildings has now been completed. The 9 storey development, at the corner of Church and Swete Streets is a taste of things to come.

Seven storeys have been approved at Childs/John Streets (*opposite St Joachim's Church*). Seven storeys is also now proposed at the corner of Ann/John Streets (*opposite the Public School*). These will be adjoining developments. Plans have also been lodged for 8 storeys in Kerrs Road and another 8 storeys on Olympic Drive (*near McDonalds*).

Even residential areas are under threat of overdevelopment, with a 92 flat development about to be built in James Street, going through to Davey Street. Another at Childs & John Street (*opposite the 7 storey development*) is a flat building that will rise to 5 storeys at the corner, contrary to council's BRAND NEW 4 storey limit in 'flat' areas.

A 6 storey 'mixed' development at the petrol station site in Kerrs Road, has been approved. It will have severe impacts on the adjoining houses, which are zoned 2a (*single housing*). Applications for a number of large developments for this part of Kerrs Road and, behind them, in Vaughan Street, are currently being assessed.

The area around Water Street and Samuel Street is being 'built out', with 3 and 4 storey flats. Given that some land in this part of Lidcombe is flood prone, it is questioned whether it is appropriate to place large numbers of residents here. Despite the 4 storey height limit for flats recently approved by council, there is an application for 6 storeys at 14- 22 Water Street. Nearby in Cockthorpe and Elsham Roads an 'in principle' agreement has been given for the erection of 43 townhouses (2 and 3 storeys) in one development.

Our councillor, Cr Irene Simms, opposed all the developments that have been mentioned as approved. RAGAA has consistently opposed over-development.

We are true to our election promise..... to be a voice for the residents!

For more information on just what is happening regarding developments in the Auburn Council Area visit our website at

www.ragaa.org

RAGAA

“putting the residents first”

With the term of the current Council due to end with the Local Government Election on March 27th 2004, it seems appropriate to review what is happening in the Auburn Local Government Area.

As predicted in a previous newsletter, the skyline of all our suburbs is changing dramatically. Numerous developments are in the process of being built and the 9 storey development near the railway line in Auburn (*the subject of so much controversy*) will soon be dwarfed by the development of Auburn Central, in Queen Street. This project will have many buildings with the highest reaching 14 storeys. **While the addition of shops, such as Big W and Woolworths, should be good for Auburn, there are serious concerns about the 471 flats which are to be built above these shops. After all, neither Bankstown Square nor the Westfield complexes have residential above them.**

Recent outbursts in the gallery by those who have come to observe Council meetings, are a sign that many residents are frustrated with Council & its Councillors. A number of petitions, Letters to the Editor and the formation of several community groups, such as the Residents for a Better Berala, are further evidence of this.

RAGAA has always promised to be a voice for the residents, and we do not deny the right of people to develop. We do maintain, however, that this development should not come at the expense of neighbours. They have a right to privacy, sunlight and protection from inappropriate development.

Overdevelopment leads to other pressures on our infrastructure...schools, hospitals, parklands, traffic, parking and other community services.

The reality is that most development in our area is 'infill', that is, pushed into existing built areas.

COLLEX: RAGAA has been opposed to this waste plant since the application first came to Auburn Council's notice.

Many of our members attended the recent rally outside Parliament House. Cr Irene Simms (*RAGAA*) and the mayor met with Michael Richardson (*the shadow minister for the environment*) on Dec 1st. They also met with the NSW upper-house cross-benchers on December 2nd (*with John Drake, Allan Brzoson and Cr Maureen Walsh from Parramatta*) to try to convince them why they should oppose the bill introduced by Labor to overturn the Land and Environment Court win by John & Allan.

As residents would be aware, the bill was passed, although it was opposed by the Liberal party and, we are pleased to say, nearly all of the cross-benchers who had been lobbied.

It should be noted that both our state member, Barbara Perry and Granville's, Kim Yeadon, voted for the waste plant.

ENVIRONMENT: Following an invitation from SOPA, Irene Simms (*RAGAA*) is on the Sydney Olympic Parklands Authority Parklands Advisory Committee, which advises the SOPA board regarding the Millennium Parklands.

Several of our members work on various Duck River committees, and are involved in the local environment group, Auburn Greenspace.