

7 marston avenue indooroopilly 4068 +61 7 3371 9355

Save Our Brisbane Suburbs

Part of the Australia wide *Save Our Suburbs* network

Why have a group like ...

Save Our Brisbane Suburbs

The *Save Our Suburbs* "network" has developed from the success of the original *Save Our Suburbs* formed in inner Melbourne to raise, debate and resolve the many issues and conflicts arising from suburban redevelopment without respect for the existing local community.

Melbourne's inner suburban development history and context, and the battles, successes, failures and goals of *Save Our Suburbs* are recorded in an excellent book, *Suburban Backlash* by Miles Lewis (Bloomings Books) which was reviewed nationally in an informative article on the battles over Australia's suburbs in *The Australian* (13 March 2000).

The success of *Save Our Suburbs* is in part based on successful political intervention through local candidates being elected to local councils. This then allows changes in Council planning and approvals processes to reflect local constituents wishes. Once the changes have been implemented, the need for such candidates is reduced.

Following a similar process, candidates were sought for Adelaide City Council based on "corruption" of the town planning process. Similar successes were achieved and implemented. The story of Jane Lomax-Smith being elected and later becoming Lord Mayor of Adelaide reported in *The Australian Magazine* (May 13-14, 2000), is inspirational.

Members of *Save Our Suburbs* come from all over Australia and many are active in their local community reflecting the participation of local community groups in local government. Arguably however, groups such as *Save Our Suburbs* would not need to run candidates if politicians, governments and their agencies represented the views of local communities expressed through groups like *Save Our Suburbs*. In fact such groups would be much more effective as informed advocates in "partnership" with government and the development industry, a result which is increasingly being achieved, albeit after many, too many, hard fought battles.

Even Jack Munday, once viewed as the scourge of the building development industry, is now not only recognised but awarded for his efforts in promoting conservation and preservation.

So why is it necessary to have ...

Save Our Brisbane Suburbs

Unlike all other capital cities in Australia, Brisbane has regional city-wide government ... it has no local government. Brisbane's city councillors represent areas and populations in many cases similar to whole councils elsewhere. Brisbane City Council policies apply city-wide across Brisbane. Local residents have little if any "say". There is little if any local differentiation. What there is is arguably tokenistic. In Brisbane, it takes just one developer to discover a new area to turn a precinct into a major building site. Is this happening near you?

Help develop a vision for the future of your suburb or precinct ... before it is too late! Become more involved in your local community now. Support the outspoken spokespeople. Because Brisbane has regional town planning, both you and your local councillor are disempowered.