



MELBOURNE SOUTH YARRA RESIDENTS GROUP INC.

Established by the residents of South Yarra in 1969

25 July 2014

Dr Kathy Alexander
Chief Executive Officer
City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

By email:
Kathy.Alexander@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Dear Madam

Residential Zoning Changes

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 4 July which was not received until 9 July. However, your reply did not deal with the substantive issue referred to in our letter which was the failure of your planning department to take advantage of the unique opportunity offered by this legislation to protect the history and the neighbourhood character of South Yarra and in particular to establish a process that gave ratepayers an adequate opportunity to consider the issues and be heard.

To conclude that the existing planning restrictions are adequate is surprising having regard to the many examples of inappropriate buildings in South Yarra, but in any event why would not any responsible Council take the opportunity to better protect neighbourhood character against attacks by developers, inconsiderate owners and VCAT in the obvious areas deserving that protection?

The process then established by your planning department and the course of action that followed was clearly designed to restrict ratepayers from expressing views that might be contrary to those of the planners. It is the attitude of and approach taken by the planners and their processes that are of great concern to our members. It should not have occurred and in particular it should not happen again and it is about that issue that we would appreciate receiving your response.

Yours faithfully

Michael Butcher
President

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