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Topsy Smith Hostel Development
Is It Appropriate for A Dormitory Suburb?

Member for Greatorex, Dr Richard Lim says that he knows the Topsy Smith Hostel well, having visited and doorknocked the residents there several times over the years and the decision whether to support the extension of Topsy Smith Hostel to accommodate 40 residents has to be based on good town planning reasons and not on emotion.

“As the local member for the area, I know the present Topsy Smith Hostel is a quiet and peaceful hostel, and poses no problems for the community,” Dr Lim said.

“However, I support the point raised by the Eastside Residents Association that the decision whether to allow for the extension of the hostel has to be made on sound town planning reasons and not on emotion.

“I am certain that residents in the Old Eastside are supportive and sympathetic towards people suffering from renal diseases, but that should not be the basis to argue for support for the extension of Topsy Smith.

“The issue is about planning. For the last 20 years or so, the community has struggled with the increasing demand on the services, namely traffic, parking, power, water and sewerage, in the Old Eastside, a dormitory suburb.

“These services have come under increasing stress as they were not designed for the high density development that the Old Eastside has been subjected to during these years.

“Town Planning has tried to slow down the push to in-fill the large blocks in Old Eastside because of the stress on the services that they have caused.

“Consolidation of the Renner Street blocks will create a huge block of almost 5000 sq metres, re-zoned R3, a zoning that will allow for other high density developments other than the Topsy Smith Hostel.”
“While in the foreseeable future, it may not be an issue, what will happen when the consolidated block is on-sold to a private developer?

“While I am not suggesting what will happen, all you have to do is look at the Old Hetti Perkins Home, an example of a consolidated block designed as a ‘hostel’ in the past and now in private hands. Who knows what sort of development will come out of this.”

Ends

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