

29th February 2016

The Hon Fiona Richardson MP
Member for Northcote
404 High Street
NORTHCOTE



Dear Fiona,

Thank you very much for forwarding the letter from Minister Wynne.

We are very disappointed with the Minister's reply to your letter seeking support for Amendment C155 amongst the other issues you raised on behalf of your constituents.

It is particularly patronizing for Mr. Wynne to suggest that DADA members can make submissions to yet another consultancy process on the rezoning of Darebin.

DADA members have been making submissions and participating in every forum conducted since the inception of the rezoning process initiated by the last Planning Minister, Mr. Guy. On top of that we have sent a petition, responded to Darebin Council petitions, made deputations directly to the Ministers for Planning, both Guy and Wynne, and handed over letters from Darebin residents and made deputations to both Robin Scott and yourself. We have spent more time and energy than any other residents in Victoria and ended up with the least protection from over-development under Plan Melbourne rezoning.

It is beyond frustrating that Richard Wynne regards all our work as a lack of community consultation.

If he is genuinely concerned about equity of protection from over-development under the Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ), as you reported to us when we met, he had a chance to prove that by supporting Amendment C152. We know that he gave neighbouring councils, Yarra and Moreland protection in the interim while the review of Plan Melbourne is in process but did not afford Darebin equal treatment. His lack of support has resulted in an unprecedented planning application flurry by developers to build inappropriate developments in Darebin streets that should be protected and where the damage done to the community will never be recovered.

As you know, it is not possible to retrospectively legislate for appropriate planning protection, even worse; developments currently underway will create precedent in the future making protection from overdevelopment nearly impossible.

It has been reported that on the day of our meeting the decision to bin Amendment C152 was already decided by Minister Wynne and we believe you already knew this when we met? If this is the case then your assurances at that meeting were deceitful and call into question your motives and sincerity.

I hope DADA can rely on you in the future for support in our efforts to protect the aspects of our community unique and valued by our residents.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Poletti
Secretary
Darebin Appropriate Development Association
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