

Item 14.10**Notices of Motion****Securing the Bidura Development Site**

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Bidura House is an important former public building at 357 Glebe Point Road
- (ii) the site is significant to locals, containing the heritage Bidura House at the front of the site, and the former Metropolitan Remand Centre (MRC) and Children's Court at the rear
- (iii) the local community fought for a long time to protect and keep the site in public hands, led by the Glebe Society and supported by the then local MP, Jamie Parker
- (iv) the site was sold to private developers, in 2014
- (v) since the site closed for redevelopment, there have been many concerns raised with Council about potential 'heritage by neglect' at the site, with development delays and concerns about development conditions not being followed
- (vi) since the original approval, the developer, Vision Land, has accessed one of the state approval pathways as a State Significant Development assessment, with bonuses for 'In-Fill Affordable Housing'. State pathways mean the NSW Government rather than council is responsible for development conditions and approvals
- (vii) there have been multiple reports of ongoing illegal access to the site at 357 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, including alleged acts of trespassing, break-ins, vandalism, fires, safety incidents, exposure to asbestos, and anti-social behaviour on the site coming from residents who live next to the site
- (viii) the developer, Vision Land, reportedly commissioned a report that advised of the presence of apparently asbestos-bound materials, which has raised additional concerns from residents
- (ix) that Police have at times attended to neighbours' complaints, though neighbours have complained that the Police have denied responsibility for policing these alleged crimes and instead referred residents to the City, and other times have not been able to gain access to the site due to safety concerns

(B) Council further note:

- (i) that the City has received and responded to residents' complaints over the past 7 years and taken appropriate actions to address the situation, but that they have been limited by its powers in relation to a State Significant Development
- (ii) that the current local MP, Kobi Shetty, has made representations to Police, Council and met on site with residents, actively lobbied the Minister for Heritage, Climate Change, the Minister for Planning and the NSW Police around the development decisions and the heritage and safety of the site
- (iii) that although Council is limited in what it can do in relation to the illegal behaviour described, including trespassing, property damage and other potential criminal offences, this is an important site and Council should do what it can to ensure safety and heritage is protected

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) explore issuing a development control order under Division 9.3 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- (ii) consider making a referral to Safe Work NSW for inspection of the site for exploration of the asbestos issues and security of the site
- (iii) explore any other actions the City can take to secure the site and provide reassurance to neighbours about their safety
- (iv) provide an update to Councillors on the implementation of these options.

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