



# West Toowong Community Association Inc.

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Candidate for Toowong Ward  
Address

26 February 2004

Dear Candidate

## **Re: Community questions for forthcoming Brisbane City Council elections**

The West Toowong Community Association Inc. is a group formed to take actions that protect, maintain and enhance the social, architectural, environmental and visual amenity and character of the West Toowong area. The association formed late in 1999 in response to the value residents place on West Toowong's special qualities and to perceived increasing and inappropriate development of the area.

With this in mind, we are seeking the responses of candidates for the ward of Toowong, and for the Lord Mayoralty, in the forthcoming BCC election to issues that directly affect our members. These concern the following five areas, listed in rough order of scale and significance. We would be very grateful for your response, which we intend to publicise via our community-wide newsletter in mid-March.

### **1. Sustainable Brisbane**

Recent very hot summer weather has drawn attention to two issues. The first concerns the effect of global warming. Do you believe this is the underlying cause of the very hot summer weather? If so, what do you believe BCC has done about it so far and what more should BCC do in the future?

The second relates to inappropriate housing design, including the very poor environmental outcomes of the increasing use of non-lightweight building materials and the consequent increasing use of air conditioning, and the fact that traditional Queenslander houses (and plantings of large shade trees) were designed to maximise cooling in such weather without air conditioning. What steps will your administration take to ensure that ecologically-sustainable, energy efficient and climatically suitable housing provisions become mandatory for all new housing in Brisbane, and that these provisions are fully enforced? Will a [insert party name] administration introduce rebates for insulation and for solar hot water, maintain the water-tank rebate and impose an expanded Efficient Brisbane scheme?

### **2. Green space**

Green space is being eroded both through the loss of backyards (via infill housing) and through incremental selling off of formerly public land. Two examples are the loss of Toowong Pool, and the proposed loss of parkland sold to the Wesley Hospital. There are many others. What will you and your administration do to ensure that there is **no further loss of public green or recreation space**, and that the green corridors provided by

contiguous backyards are protected? Further, what steps will you and your administration take to redress this loss and **increase green space** in the Toowong area.

### **3. Traffic and transport**

West Toowong's access to public transport has been severely restricted over the past 5 years. We understand that, on some routes, passenger numbers are small. Will your administration install smaller buses on such routes, and increase frequency? If not, what measures will you and a [insert party name] administration take to provide a reasonable level of access to bus services in this area?

Rat-running is a key issue for our area, with drivers from as far afield as Brookfield using Stanley Terrace to access Broseley Road, Camp and Bywong Streets and thence Dean Street or Sylvan Road. This results in speeding through suburban areas (including past schools) as well as serious congestion and pollution. Will your administration install systems (perhaps "no left turn" signage and enforcement from Stanley Terrace into Broseley, Camp, Gower and Bywong streets unless resident) to curb this problem?

### **4. Severance**

The Western Freeway currently severs pedestrian and cyclist transit between valuable community spaces on the Freeway's western side (the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Forest Reserve and the Toowong Cemetery) and the entire Brisbane community east of the Freeway (including residents of most of Toowong and West Toowong in particular). Will your administration **remove this severance by installing pedestrian-activated walk signals at the Dean Street/Milton Road intersection** where a bus-activated stoplight is already in operation? Alternatively, an overpass has been approved from Anzac Park to Mt Coot-tha Gardens. We regard this as a less preferred option, since it will result in loss of green space, and is not a practical option for those living beyond the immediate West Toowong area. If our preferred pedestrian activated walk signal is unacceptable, would your administration ensure that an overpass is built at the Dean Street/Milton Road intersection?

### **5. Environmental weeds**

Our Association is active in rehabilitating the riparian zone of Toowong Creek. We face an uphill battle with Chinese Celtis, Madeira Vine and a number of other declared pest species. Part of the problem is that many residents are unaware of the pest status of such species, or are not encouraged to remove them. Will your administration instigate **an effective scheme to counter these pests**, perhaps along the following lines: provide a subsidy to each landowner for each tree/pest species removed (pay a portion of the tree removal cost) and then provide a replacement plant (small potted one)?

Thank you in advance for your response to these issues.

Yours sincerely

Susan Leggett  
*Secretary*