

MEMORANDUM

OP GRAND

EXHIBIT No. 285  
C. [Signature] CLERK

TO : Councillor Ted Shepherd  
CC: Councillor David Power  
Mr Warren Rowe, Director Planning Environment & Transport  
FROM : Councillor Sue Robbins  
SUBJECT : Gold Coast Bulletin Article 1-2 May 2004  
DATE : 6 May 2004

Dear Ted,

I write in relation to the attached article 'Mediate' manta for new chairman G.C. Weekend Bulletin May 1-2, 2004.

Whilst I appreciate that the G.C. Bulletin often report statements made with a certain bias, I have asked a few respected members of the UDIA about statements you made as guest speaker at last week's breakfast, who have confirmed the G.C. Bulletin article.

I held the position of Chair of Planning and Development South for seven years. I inherited a committee encumbered with an overwhelming number of appeals and bogged down in WOP meetings. I guided the industry through the planning process, during a massive boom, with a minimum level of appeals and actively encouraged the industry to raise the level of their product throughout the City. At the time, I had only one year's experience in Local Government.

I thought your personal comments relating to my role as Chair of Planning South reflected poorly on me, showed a complete lack of understanding, were divisive, patronising, chauvinistic, arrogant and completely unwarranted. Furthermore, your comments were contrary to the ethos that so many of us are determined to establish within the new Council. I also note that no reference was made to Cr Power's past performance as Chair.

I look forward to your apology.

I would appreciate you making no further comments as to my performance in any capacity in Local Government, failure to do so will force me to make certain judgements and statements of my own.

Yours faithfully,



Sue Robbins  
COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION 14

# 'Mediate' mantra for new chairman

by Ryan Ellem

NEW City Planning Committee chairman Cr Ted Shepherd said unlike a predecessor he would act as a mediator and not get caught up in the passion of developer applications.

Cr Shepherd told developers he would not try and dictate the legalities or the merits of an application like former chair of Planning South Cr Sue Robbins, but rather act as a conduit for developers and council officers.

Speaking at a breakfast hosted by the Urban Development Institute of Australia this week, Cr Shepherd also encouraged the city's big business players not to hint publicly at a development-friendly council.

He described the alleged bloc as a united body that would work for one purpose under council, and councillors would still express their individual concerns.

"The idea of a bloc is wrong, because that means it's similar to a political party, where members vote along a set line," said Cr Shepherd.

"Councillors will speak on their own, and I think it is a far better situation than they have in Brisbane."

Cr Shepherd said Cr Robbins, sometimes through her character

got over involved in decisions.

"You (developers) know how the planning scheme ticks, and you'll try and put forward your arguments to try to win your case. The council officers will do the same and it'll be my role to find a compromise."

With the centralising of the two planning committees, Cr Shepherd is charged with the council's most contentious department.

Tony Parker, director of the Burchill development group, said he thought merging the two planning committees was a positive move but has reservations about how large the agenda may get.

"The committee could find it is sitting more frequently and having longer meetings," said Mr Parker.

"That might reflect on how applications are dealt with but I suppose only time will tell."

Mr Parker said there should be a review of transport and open space charges.

"There have always been charges like water, but there is a component (within transport and open space) that should be paid by the city-wide rate base rather than developers," he said.

Cr Shepherd said the biggest overhaul the planning division would undergo was the creation of uniform guidelines.