

**The Sydney Morning Herald**

4 May ·

A plan to build apartments in Sydney's south-east may be fast-tracked under a program to boost the economy and create jobs during the COVID-19 crisis.



SMH.COM.AU

'Socially irresponsible': Meriton bypasses council to build 1900 apartments

You, Antony Pax Gould and 382 others

233 comments 58 shares

**Angry****Comment****Share**

Most relevant



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Timo Lorenzen A classic Meriton! 'I don't get what I want so it has to be unfair' Trump style approaches, no vision for a modern future and no respect for anyone else.

Like · Reply · 7w

19

**Save Little Bay** Timo Lorenzen well said!

Like · Reply · Commented on by Olde Lorenzen · 7w



Phil Ritchie Trump's an amateur when it comes to making money compared to Old Harry .Hence why he's worth \$2.8 billion & Harry , \$8.3 billion (U.S \$)Old H is ruthless.....

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Write a reply...



Antony Pax Gould Randwick council: this plan is ridiculous, obnoxious and completely unrealistic.

Meriton: I want to speak to your manager.... [See more](#)[Save Little Bay](#)

Save Little Bay

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11



Olde Lorenzen Horrible proposal and hugely disrespectful to the community and local planning authority. [Randwick City Council](#) this is outrageous?
<https://vimeo.com/413842744>



Vimeo.com

Little Bay Cove: COVID-19 As Cover To Fast-Track Overdevelopment

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6



Steve Jackson Nope, no fast track this time for high rise Harry. [Save Little Bay](#) are one of the best organised, intelligent and professional objector organisations you can expect to come across and will fight all the way. Meriton have run roughshod over communities ... [See more](#)

Like · Reply · 7w

2

1 reply



Top fan

Kristine Golding Now would be an excellent time to rethink the over population of the Sydney area. Why can't these developers look at decentralising. Companies should be encouraged to move out. There's a lot of land west of the Blue Mountains.

Like · Reply · 7w

26

Hide 18 replies

"Most relevant" is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



Neihana Bennett [Kristine Golding](#) taking up more land is not the answer.

Like · Reply · 7w

3



Top fan

Kristine Golding [Neihana Bennett](#) constantly going skywards is not the answer either. Forcing people to live cheek by jowl in high rise flats isn't something Government should be endorsing.

Like · Reply · 7w

4



Save Little Bay [Kristine Golding](#) completely agree!

Like · Reply · Commented on by [Olde Lorenzen](#) · 7w

1



Top fan

Benny Black [Kristine Golding](#) they should slow immigration but keep building, to reduce the ridiculous Sydney prices, in my opinion.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Top fan

Kristine Golding [Benny Black](#) yes but they can't keep cramming people into high rise flats.

Like · Reply · 7w



Top fan

Kristine Golding Save Little Bay it's a disgrace what's planned for Little Bay too

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Ian Zuman **Kristine Golding** not much water though. Bathurst water supply still only 30%

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Top fan

Kristine Golding **Ian Zuman** build infrastructure. That will provide employment and kick start the economy.

Like · Reply · 7w



Ian Zuman **Kristine Golding** and make the dam run dry faster. Great plan.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Michael Coghlan **Kristine Golding** long way for the Chinese tenants and owners to travel to the city from way out west!

Like · Reply · 7w

2



Geoff Willcox **Kristine Golding** they call those "farms" you know to feed people?.

How about we just execute anyone who retires or who is unable to work? That would solve the population issues getting rid of a few million boomers!

I am of course not serious but hig... [See more](#)

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Margot Todd **Kristine Golding** are only difference and advantage to survive corona is not to many appartments like adder country but obviously no one learn

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Top fan

Kristine Golding **Geoff Willcox** I know. I have lived "on the land" There's plenty of scope around Bathurst and Orange to expand and the land out there us not limited.

Like · Reply · 7w



Top fan

Kristine Golding **Ian Zuman** build new dams.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Ian Zuman **Kristine Golding** hahahahaha and fill them with what? We've had no increase this year in the current one

Like · Reply · 7w

2



Janet Hogan **Kristine Golding** sounds a great solution but you need rain to fill them and if you actually speak to farmers many are still in drought . One rain event doesn't fix a drought .

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Colleen Turnbull **Kristine Golding** why? \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$



Colleen Turnbull Kristine Golding why ? \$\$\$\$\$\$

Like · Reply · 7w



Hilary Diana McWilliam Kristine Golding Agree absolutely get some manufacturing industries going in country towns, land cheaper and some affordable housing

Like · Reply · 7w

"Most relevant" is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



Write a reply...



Alison Bussell We really don't need more bloody apartments in Sydney or Melbourne. They'll all be empty for years. Bet it's another overseas developer with shocking building standards. What a shame- the awful developments that have been approved by councils with no taste or idea of how to plan a beautiful city.

Like · Reply · 7w

7



Robert Hunter Alison Bussell Wrong, Meriton is Australian, the largest Developer of apartments in the Country

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Top fan

Fay Hastoukia Alison Bussell lol you couldn't wait to point your little finger could you?

Like · Reply · 7w



Paul Graham Alison Bussell totally agree

Like · Reply · 7w



Alison Bussell Fay Hastoukia Well it's true isn't it? Otherwise give me reliable statistics collated from local councils. There are some really horrid architectural diol dings in both cities covered in highly flammable material. Hope you don't invest in one of those like a lot of other poor souls wondering how to pay the \$10,000 bill for restoration to acceptable material.... [See more](#)

Like · Reply · 7w



Alison Bussell Robert Hunter Ok I remain corrected about the builders in this particular case. My argument about others built and financed by overseas interests still stands. I have some apartments in Melbourne city near the Flagstaff gardens less than 3 years old w... [See more](#)

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited



Top fan

Fay Hastoukia Alison Bussell DRONGO you said Meriton were an overseas developer

Like · Reply · 7w



Write a reply...



Draghici Codrut I'm wondering how much is the profit for Meriton from this? How many billions? I'm sure they don't care much about creating jobs

Like · Reply · 7w

5



Save Little Bay Draghici Codrut They paid \$245m in 2017, for a masterplanned site permitted to carry 224 more dwellings. It represented a \$107m premium at the time. An awful investment in their books. Now attempting to make windfall gains under the cover of COVID. Appalling.

Like · Reply · Commented on by [Olde Lorenzen](#) · 7w

1



Write a reply...



Clare Collins How about the focus is on fixing the existing disasters & increasing legislation that commands accountability of the industry before more disasters are allowed to occur!

Like · Reply · 7w

41



Save Little Bay Clare Collins Absolutely! Or build the rest of the low-rise medium density plan that's in place and that hundreds of residents already made a lifetime investment in before Meriton trampled all over it

Like · Reply · Commented on by [Olde Lorenzen](#) · 7w

3



Clare Collins Save Little Bay yes... it seems that all this has been conveniently swept under the carpet by this government during the Covid 19 crisis. It's just appalling! Time to shift the focus back on this issue that has impacted so many people due to know fault of their own!

Like · Reply · 7w

4



Jude Moore The focus on quick foreign money and sell.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Write a reply...



Top fan

Bronte Anita Huolohan Little Bay should not be overdeveloped it would spoil the headland. This area should be limited with height restrictions and the floor plan sizes should accommodate families. Developments in Roseberry protest they built at Roseberry had to be modified as the residents nearly completely lost the city skyline view. Retaining public space and developments that don't overbear their surroundings is key to quality housing.

Like · Reply · 7w

4



Save Little Bay Bronte Anita Huolohan Exactly right! Did you know there's a Masterplan in place catering for just that? Townhouses and duplex homes. But Meriton trying to double down on a reckless proposal seeking to squeeze 750% more dwellings in.

Like · Reply · Commented on by [Olde Lorenzen](#) · 7w



Top fan

Bronte Anita Huolohan Save Little Bay yes that's that they always do. Propose to one plan but then increase 10fold they are all smoke and mirrors. Council should have better

controls over high rise developments. Look at Mascot and Alexandria what an absolute mess. We need housing that suits families and be living on top of each other like sardines.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Write a reply...



Top fan

Bruce Jay Current governments of all persuasions are continuing on with the appalling residential accommodation infrastructure that just creates future slums and social problems. They know this will happen but it is really all about their own jobs and getting th... [See more](#)

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Linda Casey Go have a look at some of Meritons “developments”. Absolutely appalling! Greed restrained under the guise of creating jobs! This really just had to be a no. Amazing it would even be considered after what has happened at other developments.

Like · Reply · 7w

6



Save Little Bay Linda Casey Appalling indeed!

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Robert Thomas And what exactly has happened at other developments?

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited



Write a reply...



Top fan

Lindsay Little SMH again showing a lack of knowledge of facts, the standard of reporting is appalling. Local councils have had the decision making on apartments removed for quite some time, it is the N.S.W. govt, Gladys, do that. Local councils only check on compliance after completion.

Like · Reply · 7w

2



Save Little Bay Lindsay Little Huh?! Wrong. Councils make plans. Developer can apply for rezoning. Councils assess. Meriton submitted the new version of their proposal to Council on 20 March and didn't even allow them 40 days to work through it.

Like · Reply · Commented on by [Olde Lorenzen](#) · 7w

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Write a reply...



Margaret Mary Yates Nsw has such an outstanding reputation for safe well built apartment towers NOT

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Heather Bilson No doubt the Liberals will use this opportunity to push forward work regardless of the inappropriateness of the builds & the environment. Get ready to rally NSW you have a government you cannot trust.

Like · Reply · 7w

4

Like · Reply · 7w



Cheryl Bookallil Perhaps Meriton that is a multi-million dollar business could be a good citizen and build low income housing.

Like · Reply · 7w



Judith Charnaud it is amazing what these developers can get away with, they seem to think that concrete is better than any open space!

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Russell Schatz Where is building control since this dangerous government promised Development and Construction would be closely controlled as it always was before their taking control of the state more than 9 years ago .

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Amity McCarthy More Meriton slums.
A lot more than the dwellings is required to make this sustainable, and unfortunately that never seems to come.

Like · Reply · 7w

6



Kelly Swanson Hamilton Amity McCarthy boost economy to build empty dwellings?? The developers then call all the mums and dads and tell them how they can save tax, attempting to get mum and dad investors to pay for these dwellings.

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited

1



Save Little Bay Amity McCarthy #StopMeriton!

1

Like · Reply · Commented on by Olde Lorenzen · 7w



Write a reply...



Moira Oconnell Stop letting the bloody millionaires run our country. That's what we employ our Government to do , if you can't do the job don't expect to get paid for it .

Like · Reply · 7w



Top fan

Peter Meijer Big developers always do this start low and triple the development and if there is objections it is anti development anti jobs

Like · Reply · 7w

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Save Little Bay One of the most upsetting, nefarious planning proposals out there, trying to override a 50% built Masterplan under the cover of COVID-19. Entirely out of local character, against local and district planning documents, lacking public benefit and strateg... [See more](#)

Save Little Bay

Like · Reply · Commented on by Olde Lorenzen · 7w

50



Jeffree Inferus I'm guessing that if the #KoalaKiller #LNP government steamrolls over the local council rejections, then this will become (presuming that money can still flow across

will become (presuming that money can still flow across international borders) another half-empty ghost town with empty retail space around its ground floors.

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited

16



Save Little Bay Jeffree Inferus Stokes must stop this.

3

Like · Reply · Commented on by Olde Lorenzen · 7w



Write a reply...



You Bloody Ripper “Boost the economy and create jobs” - the new excuse for doing questionable things

49

Like · Reply · 7w



Save Little Bay You Bloody Ripper They go about claiming this horrible proposal would “create almost 8000 jobs” and their own submissions to Council states it’s 500. The Meriton method.

5

Like · Reply · Commented on by Olde Lorenzen · 7w · Edited



Barry Kennedy Save Little Bay only part time jobs too, no future jobs.

3

Like · Reply · 7w



Margie Makim You Bloody Ripper create a hot spot for the next pandemic...brain wave, so clever.

Like · Reply · 7w



Write a reply...



Lorena Uriarte Why? We don’t need them! Half the apartments they’ve built in the last 5 years are EMPTY!

8

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Top fan

Daniel Chen Lorena Uriarte Yes there is an oversupply of units, it not that people don't want to buy them but developer rather not sell they rather 300% than 200% profit. The developers rent the unit out and if market picks back up, they will renovate the unit and it is sold as new again.

1

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited



Top fan

Fay Hastoukia Lorena Uriarte actually it's very hard finding a decent place to rent

Like · Reply · 7w



Save Little Bay Lorena Uriarte and even worse: there’s a perfectly sensible 50% built Masterplan in place for Little Bay, catering for much needed townhouses and duplex homes for families (the “missing middle”) which Meriton bought in 2017 and has been refusing to complete because not enough return on investment

Like · Reply · Commented on by Olde Lorenzen · 7w



Robert Thomas Save Little Bay You have no idea what

Harry is thinking or what is going on at Meriton. Stop acting

Harry is thinking or what is going in at Meriton. Stop acting like you do.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7w



Write a reply...



Top fan

Nicolas Grieco Why? We have enough Opal and Mascot towers situations that are falling apart already so no need to add to the problem

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7w

24



George Cosmas I'm convinced we have a huge recession on the way, meriton Will not be able to sell most of these apartments.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7w

22

"Most relevant" is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



Save Little Bay **George Cosmas** They are using COVID-19 fasttrack to turn a horrible investment (\$245m in 2017 for a site that currently caters for 224 dwellings) into something that looks better on their balance sheet. They won't care about constructing immediately all... [See more](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by **Olde Lorenzen** · 7w

4



Edwin Berzins It is almost certain you are correct, however that will another opportunity for the government squander money by stepping in and buying the units.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7w



Aris Dimos Meriton can hold and rent, they never sell all apartments in their developments. They don't need bank finance to build

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7w · Edited

1



Top fan

Julia Langham **George Cosmas** good. But in the meantime it will be an eyesore in that area

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7w



Richard Bonneville **George Cosmas** we have been in recession since the mid-1990s, but it is hidden by the property market, fuelled by immigration and overseas students. Not sure why the government feels the need to interfere in the market to prop up over-priced accommodation

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7w

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Write a reply...



Margie Makim Apartments are out, houses are in...haven't you heard? Over crowded places where people live like rats in a cage are the hot spots for the plague. Have you learnt nothing, how can you be so ignorant.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7w

2



Save Little Bay **Margie Makim** And this proposal is trying to

override a Masterplan that caters for exactly that: townhouses and duplex homes. Appalling.

Like · Reply · Commented on by [Olde Lorenzen](#) · 7w



Robert Thomas Maybe in the country but not in Sydney

Like · Reply · 7w



Write a reply...



Anthony David Ditchmen Everyone knows that if you have a Liberal government that the billionaires get what they want, with the stroke of a pen on a cheque to their next election fund they will get approval (especially if it's a developer)

Like · Reply · 7w

6



Mick Griffiths You don't realise just how true your words are, I've got the undeniable factual evidence right here to prove it AND I've provided it to all and sundry with no responses forthcoming! Thus who cares, no one in authority that's for sure!

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited

1



Anthony David Ditchmen [Mick Griffiths](#) they don't care mate because they are told not to care from people further up the chain of command

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Mick Griffiths Anthony David Ditchmen. Been to Premier, Mins for LG, Mins for Planning, local member Paul 'the tool' Toole, (cant expect much from him he's involved per se), EPA, Safework, Depts LG and Planning, council, ICAC and Ombo, plus in part the cops (Place tox... [See more](#))

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited



Anthony David Ditchmen Unfortunately mate it's a fact

Like · Reply · 7w



Anthony David Ditchmen [Mick Griffiths](#) need a federal ICAC

Like · Reply · 7w



Mick Griffiths [Anthony David Ditchmen](#) YES FED ICAC URGENT!! Aust Constitution Volume 3 - wtte 'every resident of Aust has the equal right of access to due process' NSW has and is denying me that right and I've raised it with the Feds - no response thus and independent investigative body NOW!

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Robert Thomas Seems you are not to up to speed on laws regarding developers and donations

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited

1



Anthony David Ditchmen [Robert Thomas](#) yeah because they wouldn't dream of breaking laws

Like · Reply · 7w

Like · Reply · 7w



Write a reply...



Hugh Clark Who cares about Sydney. It's a church run happy clapper evangelical police state. In fact its shops and bars have been closed up and boarded up for years I don't notice any difference with the lock down . I know. I live near the harbour bridge have two properties and will sell up move to Melbourne when this covid-19 is all over. It's like Alabama full of right wing conservative god fearing red necks.

Like · Reply · 7w

3



Jessie Glasby Look at the size of Australia on a map and check out the habitated towns and cities....look at a map of UK and the small space they have. WHY does Australia need to keep going up. We need more towns and cities being developed and stop lumping every one together in one spot

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Barry Kennedy Well then if thats the case we either dont need state governments or councils, I think councils have far more benefit for most places and its only because of them that things get done in the country, so lets dump this stooge state government.

Like · Reply · 7w

4



Mick Griffiths Barry, We are far too over governed, do away with State Govts, cut the duplication and associated administration costs and we all benefit.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Write a reply...



Larry Tofler Don't blame Meriton. Stop population growth then see how eager corporations like that are to fill every square inch with apartments.

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited

1

1 reply



Michael Howard Nothing surprises me any more when developers and governments start getting into bed.

Like · Reply · 7w



Geoff Brown The jobs jobs jobs mantra has always been used by governments to ram through dodgy developments. And most result in very few permanent jobs

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited

1 reply



Alan Mc Donagh Unbelievable what this greedy developer has been getting away with , state government needs to stop this as he bullies councils threatening to bankrupt them

Like · Reply · 7w

2



Top fan

Monique Isnt Heim Just pay off the right people and you can build as many low quality high density suburbs as you wish

Like · Reply · 7w

4



Ian MacDonald Monique Isn't Heim, yes this is the raw unadulterated truth. Harry has been in the money making business always. The buildings are just an uninhabitable, defective consequence of his activity.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Write a reply...



Top fan

Darryl Fry Sure, a crisis caused by growth can be fixed by more growth. Then the problems caused by that growth will be fixed by more growth etc.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Save Little Bay Darryl Fry Absolutely!!!

Like · Reply · Commented on by Olde Lorenzen · 7w



Write a reply...



Top fan

Justin Towns This is exactly why Harry Triguboff has been pushing so hard for the cruise ship terminal in Botany bay. If this development gets stopped then it's likely to put the brakes on the cruise ship terminal.

Like · Reply · 7w · Edited

1



Ronald Maxwell Yeah great! More ghettos on the horizon, good one Sydney, this will be another good reason to keep away from the place. Lol.

Like · Reply · 7w



Pauline Katafono Is it affordable housing? How about job creation schemes to house the homeless. That's what's needed in Sydney.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Christine Cocks not everyone can be a builder or labourer.

Like · Reply · 7w



Tom Thao It's interesting how the artist's impression never shows the streets crammed packed with cars parked. Where the hell are occupants of 1900 apartments going to park their cars? Especially when a small family these days might have 3 cars?

Like · Reply · 7w

8

"Most relevant" is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



Kelly Swanson Hamilton Tom Thao they also don't show the shoebox lounge rooms

Like · Reply · 7w

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Top fan

John David Donohoe Tom Thao, where do the children play? Where do the adults exercise in the sunshine? Where do the pets have a run?

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Save Little Bay Tom Thao Here's a more realistic view...
<https://www.facebook.com/108904590512902/posts/260135185389841/>

Like · Reply · Commented on by Olde Lorenzen · 7w

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Write a reply...



Daniel Cong wait, once the project has completed. Who are the buyers of new apartments? Not again.

Like · Reply · 7w

2



Top fan

Paul Kron More units to add to the thousands that are empty that will supply accomodation to the invading hordes that will come after the virus

Like · Reply · 7w

3



Top fan

Chris Golding Yes, build more apartments days after Immigration is predicted to drop 85% next fin year

Like · Reply · 7w

3



Top fan

Andrew Barrs It's social housing for all those ruined by the pandemic right?

Like · Reply · 7w

2



Savvas Barmakellis Guess being a prime Lib donor makes Harry Triguboff NSW defacto 'Planning Minister'..

Like · Reply · 7w



Greg Pike Breeding grounds for more diseases. Low density and population control are needed.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Barbara Hawes The owner of Meriton doesn't have to live there he lived or lived in Israel? Future slums!!!
 ?I e

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Peter Blanksby This may mean cheaper housing, as long as the Chinese don't back it.

Like · Reply · 7w



Top fan

Sharyn Millar And look at overseas with this virus. They all live on top of each other in pokey little places and share the same lifts, stairs and corridors. No thanks, couldn't pay me to live in one

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Adam Raymond Bonner One rule for some and another for others - the very mark of a police state - and Berejiklian is its leader.

Like · Reply · 7w

2



Bill Webster Social housing???

Like · Reply · 7w



Henry David Twaddell What a disaster

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Henry David Twaddell What a disaster.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Grant Brewer True

Like · Reply · 7w



Scott Cole Gladys Berejiklian you cannot let this go ahead.

Like · Reply · 7w

1

1 reply



Kiara Asuzu Poppy Morandin TOPICAL

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Helen Kiely COVID19 hasn't depressed me but this does. Nothing changes.

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Peter Schulze So I will ignore all the rules disgraceful

Like · Reply · 7w



Robert Noonan SLUMS

Like · Reply · 7w

1



Stefan Heyer



TENOR

Like · Reply · 7w



Kitty Jeffrey Here we go!!!

Like · Reply · 7w

**Jordan Raegni Georgia** called it

Like · Reply · 7w

**Bethany Rim** I want one **Jessica Thy**

Like · Reply · 7w

**Rocco Seffredi** Unfortunately that area will be destroyed.

Like · Reply · 7w

**Tiana Manticos George Em** it's like they heard us talking!

Like · Reply · 7w

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