



West End Traders Association Inc.

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President: Peter Marinelli 3844 2937/0418 745 984

Secretary: Andrew Thompson 0409 976 255

The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane
Councillor Adrian Schrinner
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13 May 2019

My dear Lord Mayor

WETA calls for immediate action on Boundary Street safety

There has been a growing level of anti-social behaviour in the Boundary, Melbourne and Vulture Streets commercial precinct. The West End Traders Association (WETA) is calling on Brisbane City Council to act immediately to improve safety in the precinct. We have also written to local Councillor Jonathan Sri with the same request.

Anti-social behaviour has been on the rise and is impacting on local businesses. WETA represents more than 30 retail and commercial businesses who together employ more than 370 staff and service almost 400,000 customers every year. We are seeing shop and office leases remaining vacant, our members and other local traders report that customer numbers are down, and all of this is having a negative impact on amenity for this great local community.

As a result, WETA commissioned urban planning consultants Urbis to undertake an independent safety audit of the precinct. I have attached a copy of the Urbis *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* (CPTED) report.

CPTED is an international benchmark adopted by the Queensland Police Service and Brisbane City Council and is a multi-disciplinary approach to reducing crime through urban and environmental design and better management and use of built environments. The International CPTED Association says "CPTED strategies aim to reduce victimisation, deter offender decisions that precede criminal acts, and build a sense of community among inhabitants so they can gain territorial control of areas and reduce opportunities for crime and fear of crime".

The West End safety audit was assessed against Brisbane City Council and Queensland Police Service CPTED principles and included interviews with community members, tenants, business owners and long-term residents. Three sites were subsequently identified for immediate attention:

1. Small Park (or People's Park), Boundary Street: immediate rectification of CPTED risks, improved lighting and some redesign to fix the "dead-end" effect
2. Russell and Boundary Streets intersection: intersection upgrades, landscape maintenance and additional lighting
3. Melbourne Street Boulevard (cnr of Melbourne and Mollison Streets): improved lighting, reactivating the vacant, adjacent tenancy and landscape maintenance



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The CPTED report and recommendations are designed to improve safety for everyone in and around Boundary Street. The report demonstrates that safety is being compromised due to poor urban design - some of the most marginalised people in the area are at the greatest risk of crime because of these badly lit areas that include dead-ends or blind corners with limited public visibility.

What we want to deal with immediately is creating safer places for everyone and acting on the recommendations of an independent expert. WETA had previously worked hard to secure funding to rectify some of these safety issues, particularly at Small Park, but upon his election three years ago Cr Sri decided to redirect those funds elsewhere so nothing has been done.

We acknowledge there is a much bigger conversation to be had about caring for the homeless and marginalised, and we are keen to contribute to that, but it is only a matter of time before a more serious incident occurs.

WETA is calling on Brisbane City Council to act immediately on the CPTED report. The problems have been identified and the solutions are clear. We ask Council to acknowledge the issues, accept the findings of the CPTED report and work to fix the problems now.

Yours sincerely

PETER MARINELLI
PRESIDENT