



West End Traders Association Inc.

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President: Peter Marinelli 3844 2937/0418 745 984

Secretary: Andrew Thompson 0409 976 255

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WETA calls for immediate action on Boundary Street safety

Brisbane City Council and Gabba Councillor Jonathan Sri have been asked to act immediately to improve safety in West End's Boundary Street commercial precinct.

A growing level of anti-social behaviour in the Boundary, Melbourne and Vulture Streets commercial precinct caused the West End Traders Association to commission an independent safety audit.

West End Traders Association (WETA) represents more than 30 retail and commercial businesses who together employ more than 370 staff and service almost 400,000 customers every year.

WETA President Peter Marinelli said anti-social behaviour had been on the rise and was impacting on local businesses.

"Customer numbers are down, shop and office leases are remaining vacant and it is having a negative impact on amenity for this great local community," Mr Marinelli said.

"Local traders identified sites of concern that are dirty, badly lit or dark dead-ends where anti-social activity has been getting worse over the past couple of years.

"WETA commissioned urban planning consultants Urbis to conduct a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) safety audit of the area to see if there was anything that could be done."

Mr Marinelli said CPTED was an international benchmark adopted by the Queensland Police Service and Brisbane City Council and was 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 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

Mr Marinelli said the CPTED report and recommendations were designed to improve safety for everyone in and around Boundary Street.



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“The CPTED 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 dirty, badly lit places,” Mr Marinelli said.

“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 the local Councillor, Jonathan Sri, and Brisbane City Council to act immediately on the CPTED report - the problems have been identified and the solutions are clear.

“We ask Cr Sri and the Council to acknowledge the issues, accept the findings of the CPTED report and fix the problems now.”

Ends

For further information, please contact:

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