



F.A.S.A.G.

Fitzroy and Acland Streets Action Group

MEDIA RELEASE

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Fitzroy and Acland Streets must have a voice and a renewed focus.

A group of concerned local residents and individuals have formed the Fitzroy and Acland Streets Action Group to advocate to government, across all three levels, for appropriate planning controls and investment to facilitate appropriate planning, social and economic outcomes.

The objective of the group is to ensure that planning decisions and investment by government as well as the private sector does not compromise local amenity, has a focus to attract more business and investment to the area and makes sure that opportunities to protect and enhance the night-time economy are not lost.

These issues came to the fore with the recent application for a mixed-use development which reduces car parking on site and brings an end to yet another night spot (formerly Poison Nightclub) at 61-63 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda.

Mr Brad Every, a concerned local resident and convenor of the newly formed Fitzroy and Acland Streets Action Group said that the planning of the area was brought to his attention when he saw the sign advertising the application only a few weeks ago which he then brought to the attention of his neighbours, and local businesses and organisations in the area fearing the decision would be decided behind closed doors with little community input.

Quotes attributed to Mr Brad Every:

“What locals want is for the process to be transparent and to have a good level of community input, given the magnitude and impact of the development proposal.”

“I found it a bit disingenuous that the advertising period of the development proposal happened to coincide with the holiday period when most people are either away or busy with festive events.”

“The advertising sign itself was also a bit dubious as it had a big X marked through it as if it was made in error or was not a legitimate sign.”

“Local residents, businesses and organisations need to be heard on planning applications which will have a massive impact on local amenity, facilities, the entertainment value of Fitzroy Street and beyond.”

“The council cannot just sweep these concerns under the rug either by advertising during the holidays or deciding the application behind closed doors. We want a St Kilda precinct that current and future generations can be proud of and enjoy.”

FASAG will be holding a community meeting inviting concerned locals, local businesses and organisations, council and the applicant to discuss the merits of the proposal, and to hear concerns of local residents with an aim to plot a viable way forward.

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