



Mt Barker & District Residents' Association Inc

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For the community

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Hills Development

How building developments affect a neighbourhood is a hot topic in Australia today with many communities up in arms over constructions in their area. The Adelaide hills is no different with many towns fighting to keep their special nook from being changed too much. What if however, there was a way for both developers and the rest of the community to win, where development that objectively benefits the community is put forward? It turns out that there is a way, and it shouldn't be too hard to implement if there is momentum behind it. After all, it would only entail looking at how we've built structures for most of civilisation.

In the 1950s and 60s there was a big shift in thinking away from more traditional styles of building to stark concrete megastructures and an uglier style of architecture. Function over form was the thinking of the day and while we've largely moved on from that, we still haven't returned to the essence of what we had before; building for people.

Building for people entails essentially what can be summed up with good design. It is the design of a building above all else that determines what effect it will have on a community and so the design should be a major topic of discussion. Instead however, councils and planning committees get bogged down with height limits and street frontage restrictions in an attempt to lessen the damage done by the construction.

Instead, a bold approach should be taken where the design of the building is paramount and other issue are considered secondary. A well designed development could be built, for example, in the style of familiar English or European architecture, with modern internal structures, but with outer claddings that speak to the human wish for decoration or familiar style. The benefit of building with this sort of style is that they are designed on a more human scale and will add greatly to the amenity of an area.

With the Adelaide Hills being a place of great historic value, communities should work with developers to produce aesthetically pleasing apartment blocks and business districts in our town centres. This will allow the much larger infrastructure needed to keep up with our growing population while preserving the character of our district.