**FMC Question Time 7 June 2016**

**Question to Planning Councillor – Ken Ong**

On 7th October 2014 at this meeting, SRG made a submission to a ministerial referral for 248-250 Sturt St rejecting the atrocious 40 storey plan. The application was rejected by the Minister and subsequently referred to VCAT by the applicant.

There were then confidential negotiations between the applicant and CoM leading to a conditional planning approval being issued for a 16 storey.

Why weren't we, the residents, informed? It seems like there has been a deal done behind closed doors. That's not the right message for council to be sending its residents.

Residents don't have notice rights and we rely on Future Melbourne Committee meeting as our point of notice. It's our opportunity to have a say because the State Government deprives us of our voice.

This Council knows that Southbank residents are passionate about planning in their neighbourhood, and from what I have seen of the approved application there are a number of questionable aspects which makes me wonder how it was approved. This is unacceptable!