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Boyd Site - 229 City Rd - Sale of Land  
Manager of Governance and Legal  
Melbourne City Council  
Town Hall Administration Building  
120 Swanston St  
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## **Submission - Boyd Site 229 City Road - Sale of Land**

### **Introduction**

Earlier this year, Southbank Residents Association campaigned heavily in favour of a park at the Boyd site on City Road in Southbank when the Mackie Group contract for the 'Regent Square' residential development was revoked.

Our petition on Change.org (entitled *City of Melbourne: We need a park at Boyd before it's too late!*) received more than 1000 signatures and we submitted a compelling case to turn the land into green open space for Southbank residents and visitors to enjoy.

The Southbank community has always been vocal with regard to the development of this site and understood this was a unique opportunity to establish a considerable sized park for residents and visitors.

### **Urban Planning**

As Council well knows, Southbank is the most densely populated suburb in Melbourne with only 2.5 square metres of public open space per person. Compare this with the Melbourne Open Space Strategy's recommendation of 20 square metres of public open space per person and it is clear an improvement is desperately needed.

### **Land Sale**

Unfortunately our campaign was unsuccessful and City of Melbourne decided to sell the land to create affordable housing with all proceeds going to the QVM project. Another heavy blow to Southbank.

The only consolation is that a reduced portion of the land may be set aside in the new development for open space.

### **Funding Concerns**

We were therefore disappointed to learn recently that the financing of this project is uncertain and on shaky ground. We believe the financiers ability to provide the funding to Cairo Melbourne Pty Ltd is in question. With the alleged proof of finance for the land sale purported to be fraudulent, the ability for the sale to go through as planned is now looking unlikely.



The last thing we need is delay after delay as a result of City of Melbourne entering into another agreement with a developer that may not come to fruition due to a lack of finances.

This will only serve to further agitate the community as we are forced to endure repeated setbacks while waiting for a measly patch of open space.

Southbank residents and visitors need a place for children to play, owners to walk their dogs, workers to take a break and friends to congregate and having lost this opportunity in place of another residential development, the least CoM can do is ensure the development isn't postponed any further.

### **Conclusion**

In summary, we reiterate our objection to the sale of the City of Melbourne owned Boyd Site at 229 City Road to a developer to build yet another residential tower.

Surely there comes a time when planning is more important than profit.

Respectfully for and on behalf of all residents of Southbank,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Penna", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tony Penna  
President  
Southbank Residents Association