



An inspirational Triangle

unChain St Kilda and Esplanade Alliance respond to the Mayor's view

The Mayor dismisses public concerns about the Triangle as rage and rancour and asks Port Phillip citizens to look again at the Triangle. Did you look? Despite the claimed significant improvements, did you still see a very large shopping, hotel, office, cinema, dining and nightlife complex on seaside Crown land? Did you still see the volume of buildings suffocating the majestic Palais Theatre and blocking views to the foreshore and sea from the Upper Esplanade? Did you note that most of the images of the complex focus on views of the rooftop, obscuring the multi-level complex below?

We now ask you to look beyond the Triangle to St Kilda beach and to imagine the things that make this a special place for you. Do you imagine super stores and supermarkets? Or do you think of the Esplanade's balcony with the panorama of foreshore, beach and sea stretching from the marina lighthouse to the pier and beyond to the You Yangs? Do you imagine crowds of shoppers vying for bargains, or do you long for parks, palms, grass and sand? Do you imagine thousands of drunken revellers, or do you hope for a circus, a shady spot or a cartwheel on the grass?

Sure, the area next to the Palais Theatre is very run down, neglected for years by Council. But is this sufficient reason to convert seaside Crown land into a commercial complex, as big as Chadstone, for the next 99 years?

And now look beyond St Kilda, and consider the fate of your State's Crown land and the treatment of its communities. The Triangle development will set a precedent for how Victoria's Crown land can be managed, community views marginalised, third party rights removed and planning guidelines manipulated. This is why thousands of people are saying that the Triangle development, and the process that led to it, are wrong.

The Triangle need not be controversial. With public investment, the current plan could be rejected and the developer invited to work with the community on a new plan, which will respect the heritage and history of the site and its location at the heart of a unique and quirky part of Melbourne. Together, we could give Melbourne back its eclectic seaside playground.