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PAGE 31



English pace ace comes to town
Plus Heroes and Villains



VIBRANT: Croydon business One Small Room is in the city for a month-long pop-up shop. Georgia Cleghorn (left) and Rebekah Cleghorn at the shop. Picture: Noelle Sobrge 10423108

Shop just pops up

By TIM WILLIAMS

RETAIL: A place of Croydon's trendy Queen St shopping strip has come to the East End. Restored furniture and homewares business One Small Room has opened a pop-up shop in Ebenezer Place and will stay another three weeks.

"We see it as a great opportunity to do something in a very like-minded street to Queen St. Croydon," says owner Rebekah Cleghorn.

"We thought it was too good to miss out on the fun in the city." Having taken up an invitation from East End landlord the Maras Group, One Small Room's pop-up



shop is also forming part of the business's 10th anniversary celebrations.

"In the chaos of renovating the Croydon shop we're opening a pop-up shop - we like a challenge," Ms Cleghorn says.

One Small Room also sells jewellery, clothes and books and offers an interior design service.

City dwellers rail against "fortresses"

By TIM WILLIAMS
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DEVELOPMENT: Town Hall is working on new standards in response to resident concerns that inner-city communities are being ruined by poorly designed, "fortress-like" developments.

The City Council has received 183 submissions from residents as it negotiates planning changes with the State Government for residential zones across the south of the city.

A report on the feedback says residents have "significant concerns" about the quality of new developments, especially townhouses, because of their lack of front gardens and "high, blank front walls, locked gates and walls of garage doors".

It says residents, among whom there is scant support for developments above four storeys, think historic homes contribute to the "social fabric" of the city while new developments "work against community-building".

In response, Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood said the council was working on new assessment criteria to protect streetscapes and promote social interaction.

Mr Yarwood said the changes would ensure property frontages and streetscapes were not dominated by garage doors.

In his submission, Gilbert St resident Peter Stubbs wrote he did not want to see more of the "fortress-like" three-storey townhouses that had "popped up all over the west" of the city.

"You never see or socialise with any of the occupants as there are no front gardens or common areas for people to relax and interact. So I find them soulless."

Gilbert St residents Tarryn and Marcus Battye called for "less fill-up townhouses that all look the same and create banks of garages facing the street".

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Marion St resident Paul Pledger wrote city residents should not have to live in "walled canyons of poorly designed apartments".

"Planning needs to reflect factors that will generate closer neighbour ties and opportunities for chance meeting and interaction, even at higher densities," his submission stated.

The council consulted residents on what they liked about their communities and what sort of developments they favoured, to inform a State Government review of residential zones.

The review was made public last month.

The council has submitted a confidential "discussion draft" policy to the government and released a broad summary, saying it aimed to allow for population growth through "sensitive infill development that respects historic character".

Following negotiations with the government, the draft is expected to be released for consultation next month.

In her submission, South West City Residents Association chairwoman Julie Jordan wrote the government had "drastically reduced" southwest residential zones last year so it was "crucial that the historic, low-scale and low-intensity character of the remaining areas is retained and enhanced".

Mr Yarwood said he was confident character streets would be protected despite the government ruling out new historic conservation zones.



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