



United Retail Federation

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Redcliffe MP “Arthur nor Martha” on Population Growth at Own Population Summit... Blames Local Paper

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Peak national industry body, the **United Retail Federation** has called on State Member for Redcliffe, Lillian van Litsenburg, to explain why she called a population summit only to refuse answering questions on her position regarding population in her electorate when repeatedly questioned. Ms van Litsenburg was also questioned on why the Prime Minister and Premier were taking the issue seriously yet the local member simply treated the serious policy issue with contempt.

Scott Driscoll, National President of the United Retail Federation and born and bred Redcliffe resident, attended the forum and asked Ms van Litsenburg three times on her position regarding population growth for the area, with the only response being that the MP was “misquoted” and “taken out of context” by the local paper, where she was quoted as being opposed to growth.

“It was absolutely astounding to see the local member for Redcliffe, who actually called this summit, stand there and refuse to offer her position or even ideas on population, but instead tried to close down the meeting as soon as I asked the question,” Mr Driscoll said.

“It was quite unfair and unusual for Ms van Litsenburg to call this summit where many people have given up their time from their small business and their jobs, to come along and debate these issues, only for the member to refuse to answer questions or show any leadership.

“I can attest to the frustration in the room as Ms van Litsenburg resorted to shutting down the summit and blaming the *Redcliffe Herald* for ‘misquoting’ her, even though they were not there to defend themselves. It was a simple question; does she support the South-East Queensland Regional plan or not?

“It is high time some real local leadership was shown on this issue for Redcliffe. Clearly from this forum it will not be forthcoming from Ms van Litsenberg any time soon. There are a number of issues from inappropriate development, community infrastructure and empty dwellings, to an oversupply of retail space.

“These issues are central to the population debate for Redcliffe, yet all the local State Member wants to do is duck and weave in a tricky sort of way and then blame the Redcliffe Herald for misquoting what she says, yet not take the opportunity to clarify any alternate position she may or may not have in a public forum at an event called by her on the issue.

“Quite frankly, Ms van Litsenburg *doesn't know if she is Arthur or Martha* on the population debate and Redcliffe deserves some genuine, honest, straight talking leadership.

“The Prime Minister has taken the population issue seriously in appointing a dedicated population minister. The Queensland Premier has been proactive on a population summit and blueprint, calling for a state wide population policy approach, yet the local MP seems to want her Redcliffe electorate to remain rudderless and refuses to take any firm position on the issue and was extremely confused if she supported the SEQ Regional Plan population growth figures her government has released.

“Being our local State MP is not all just about attending morning and afternoon teas and enjoying scones and biscuits, it's about strongly representing the community that funds your well paid taxpayer funded \$200K salary package too.”

For further comment please call Scott Driscoll on **0413 831 045**.