

# City South News

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## BCC backs out of deal

**Jacinda Tutty**

THE former RSPCA site at Fairfield could be sold off for development after Brisbane City Council withdrew its intention to take possession of the parkland.

A spokesman for Brisbane City Council confirmed it would not be accepting the site, as further remediation work would be required before it could be used.

Councillor Nicole Johnston (Tennyson ward) accused the council of secretly backflipping on a deal made with the state government three years ago to convert the site into parkland for local sporting clubs.

"I am shocked that council has overturned a unanimous decision to acquire the RSPCA site for community use," Cr Johnston said.

"I think the Lord Mayor needs to come clean about

why they have changed their mind."

"The loss of land as community open space is a terrible decision as local sports clubs are in desperate need of sporting grounds."

"It's a prominent location, worth a lot of money and if the state holds ownership its very likely it will be sold off for development."

Souths Junior cricket club president, Tod Stevens, said the club received a letter from council advising them the development had been shelved and that the State Government would advise them of a decision about what would be done with the premises in the coming months.

"We've been worried the council reversed their decision but have had fantastic support from the government, so we hope something will be worked out."