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DEVINE WINS BRISBANE developer David Devine (illustrated) not only defeated a challenge in court this week to kill one of his planned unit towers but now he's considering going after opponents for his \$400,000 legal bill.

You might think that would have a residents **group** in Kangaroo Point a tad nervous after the Planning and Environment Court dismissed their bid to halt the \$122 million Riverview Towers project. But you would be wrong. Area architect David Murray said yesterday the appeal against the 20-storey building on Lambert St was not vexatious so he was not concerned about having to dig deep to pay Devine's lawyers.

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And the story might not be over. Although an appeal is considered unlikely, residents will be meeting next week to consider what options are left to fight the project, which is twice the height allowed by the local area plan.

Residents raised \$120,000 for their fighting fund but Devine – who has already **sold** the **property** and another **site** to **Chinese** developers for \$65 million – warned they would need very deep pockets to keep the battle going.

Murray said the court's decision set a "shocking precedent" for the city even though an earlier court ruling had allowed an even bigger project on the **site**.

"It means local area plans are worth nothing. You might as well throw them in the bin," Murray said.

"It's an absolute town planning disgrace. You won't know what the hell is happening at the end of your street." ELTON'S GASP FRESH from his spirited sparring with Malcolm Turnbull over climate change this week on ABC's Q&A, comedian/writer Ben Elton turned up in Brisbane on Thursday night for the opening night of his new play Gasp!

The thrust of the fast-paced black comedy – how rapacious Australian miners turn to selling designer air with the help of "suck and blow" machines – seemed to neatly bookend Elton's spray on climate change.

Spied among those sipping drinks after the show were Queensland Governor Paul de Jersey, Brisbane Airport Corporation boss Julieanne Alroe, spin doctor Kath Rose and bizzoids Greg Rudd and Chris Freeman.

BAGGY GREEN THE incoming boss of Australia's biggest credit union, Brisbane-based CUA, is one Rob Goudswaard. The gent, who enjoys a bit of hobby farming on the side, until recently ran the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria, which was bought by Bendigo Bank this year. Anyway, he's got lots of banking experience. City Beat was intrigued that his Twitter name is @baggygreencap. Let's hope he fares better than the Aussies against Pakistan!

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