Connie: Well, folks, it's time for our weekly show Local Talkshop where we invite two people from the community to discuss an issue that affects us all here in the suburb of Waterglen. Today I've got local businessman and developer Vince Calvino who plans to build a ten storey high block of apartments on the site of the old post office. With us also is Tia Ferrante the co-ordinator of Waterglen Citizens Against Inappropriate Development. Welcome, Vince and Tia.

Vince: Thanks for having me on, Connie.

Tia: Nice to be here, Connie. I love your show by the way!

Connie: Vince, if I could ask you some questions first before I get Tia to respond. Many locals are concerned about your development and there are heaps of rumours going around about it. Perhaps you could let us know some facts. When are you planning on building it? How many apartments will be in it? What will it look like?

Vince: Yes, thanks for those questions, Connie. This gives me a chance to clear the air about what I'm proposing to do. I think some people are against this because they've got their facts wrong. Firstly, I'd like to get going on building this in February at the start of next year. Before that, though, I want to make sure I've consulted with the local community and had their input. As a local businessman, it's very important to me that locals have their say. I love our suburb and I don't want to upset my neighbours. In terms of what it will look like, well it will be 10 storeys high and there will be 20 apartments in it. The apartments will vary in size. Two apartments will be quite big - they'll be three bedrooms and take up an entire floor. They're designed for families. Then there'll be smaller apartments - two and one bedroom apartments for smaller families, couples and single people. On the bottom, next to the entrance will be space for two shops.

Tia: (Sighs) Vince, you've told us about the number of apartments, but you haven't answered all of Connie's questions. One thing I'd like to know is what this apartment will look like. The Post Office which you'll be demolishing is a beautiful old brick building built in 1890. Why would we want that replaced with an ugly monster of a building?

Vince: Well let me just say for starters that you've got some of your facts wrong, Tia. We're not going to be demolishing the old post office, we'll actually be keeping the front of it - it will become the entrance way of the apartment.

Tia: Yes, but what will the apartments actually look like, Vince?

Vince: Well, it's not going to be an 'ugly monster' of a building as you call it. It's going to be a very modern, sleek design - it's going to look similar to the amazing Calvino Towers apartments I recently built in the suburb next door.

Tia: That's my point exactly. Those Calvino Towers are amazing - amazingly ugly!

Vince: I think that's really unfair.

Connie: Well, Tia, now is a good time I think for you to discuss your objections to Vince's development.
**Tia:** Where do I start, Connie? I could be here all day listing the things which are wrong about what Vince proposes to do. But let me return to what it looks like. I don’t know if you’ve seen Vince’s other apartment block, Connie - the Calvino Towers - but it’s an ugly square grey building which is the most depressing thing in the world. If you’re going to build something, make it beautiful. Keeping the front of the old post office will just make the ugliness of the apartments stand out even more. Secondly, these spaces for shops at the bottom, they’re going to be the ugliest spaces of all. Who’s going to want to rent this space? The shop spaces at the bottom of your other development, Vince, are still empty and make the whole building look even more depressing. Thirdly, the building will cast a massive shadow over the gardens of five houses behind the apartment building. One of those gardens is award winning and has trees in it that are over a hundred years old. Last of all, Vince left out the little matter of the car park. I believe you’re building a 40 space car park underneath. We don’t need more cars in the area, Vince - we need fewer. We’re trying to make Waterglen the most pedestrian friendly suburb in the state.

**Connie:** You’ve raised a lot of points, Tia. How do you respond, Vince?

**Vince:** Whether something is beautiful or not is a matter of taste, Tia. If you don’t like the look of it, fine - but I think lots of people will. We’ve also got at least two groups interested in renting the shop space underneath. One of them is a really big chain I’m sure lots of people would love to have...

**Tia:** (interrupts) I know what you’re talking about, McDonald’s. And why would we love to have them? They’ll just bring rubbish and...

**Vince:** (interrupts) Just let me finish, please, Tia. On the matter of the parking spaces, you’ve got your facts wrong again. There are only going to be 20 and we’ll actually be reshaping the footpaths to make them better for people with disabilities.

**Connie:** It’s nearly time for the news, so I’m afraid we’re going to leave it there. Thanks Vince and Tia for your time.

**Tia:** Thanks, Con.

**Vince:** Thanks for having me, Connie.