

From: Ellie Bastow [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 3 November 2017 7:31 PM
To: LSIC
Subject: Fwd: Bills Street Public Housing Renewal Program

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ellie Bastow [REDACTED]
Date: 3 November 2017 at 6:54:08 pm AEDT
To: Ellie Bastow [REDACTED]
Subject: Bills Street Public Housing Renewal Program

Dear Committee Secretary

I appreciate the opportunity to record my concerns re Government Inquiry into the Bills Street Public Housing Estate.

I have lived in the vicinity, Glen Street, for many years and have been well aware of this community of houses that has provided appreciated accomodation for low income residents and increasingly the elderly.

Historically Bills Street Estate has been particular in various ways It has been a mixture of housing with variation in size and aspect; situated beside public parkland it provides rare and special aspects to recreation and out door living.

I think there has always be a sense of community amongst the residents.

The area is undoubtedly special in many aspects not least the tremendous value of this land for development and its potential for extensive financial profit.

The question of who benefits here is crucial and I don't believe that the current record on the practice of Public/Private development has made for a fair distribution of assets.

The Government needs to take charge of a scheme that will protect the interests of low income residents and prevent exploitation of this valuable land with its obvious attractions to developers along with high income families pursuing their quest for mansion living.

It should be remembered that this tract of land was originally gifted to the Hawthorn Council by George Bills for accomodating elderly disadvantaged women.

Development needs to acknowledge social justice and the recognition that appropriate housing for low income people is no longer a given.

In Boroondara there has been well recorded losses in social housing numbers often brought on by the sale and destruction of old property making way for 'prestigious development'

There is a marked polarisation between the incidence of wealth and low income in the matter of housing. The Bills Street development gives some chance to redress this.

I support the recommendations made by the Hawthorn Residents Action Group in ways to finance redevelopment of the area.

Changes to be made must also respect the nature of the landscape and the neighbouring parkland.

Large scale development including high rise aspirations by surrounding institutions should be checked.

I trust that the Committee will take the concerns of the local community, and the importance of instigating a plan that will be strong on the vital issue of justice in the matter of social

housing when considering this development.

Yours sincerely,

Ellie Bastow