14/4/2010

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
Legislative Council
Parliament of Victoria
Spring Street
East Melbourne 3002

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my concern about the way in which The Department of Planning and Community Development bypassed the planning process in order to approve “The Nicholson” at 12-20 Nicholson Street Coburg. The local community has had absolutely no input into the design.

VicUrban has been given free rein to build a development containing 199 apartments. Only 133 car parks have been provided. The car park entrance is located off a small back street.

I believe that this development is far too large for the site. It does not fit in well with the surrounding housing stock. It will place a huge strain on the local infrastructure.

The Department of Housing made a submission to the federal government to obtain Social Housing Initiative money to partially fund the development. Only 58 of the 199 apartments will be used for social housing. The remainder will be sold for profit.

I am not against social housing and accept that 58 social housing apartments should be built on the site. However, I firmly believe Victorian Government should have consulted the local community in relation to the 141 non social housing apartments. I also believe that the Victorian Government has abused its powers in this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Dunn