

Mr Richard Willis  
The Secretary  
Select Committee on Public Land Development  
Legislative Council  
Parliament of Victoria  
Spring Street  
MELBOURNE Vic 3000

4 November 2007

Dear Sir

**Re: Inquiry into the Sale and Development of Public Land and Open Space  
Enhancement of the Public Land Estate**

The Point Lonsdale Coastal Spaces Group Inc has been campaigning for many years to ensure that a parcel of land at Point Lonsdale, known locally as Lonsdale Lakes, which was inappropriately zoned residential over 20 years ago, be retained as an irreplaceable wetland corridor between the internationally recognized RAMSAR wetland of Swan Bay and the State Conservation Reserve of Lake Victoria. – Refer attached Campaign Postcard.

Although this land is zoned residential, the environmental significance of the land is confirmed by the requirement for any application to develop the land be subject to an Environmental Effects Study that must be approved by both the State Minister for Planning and the Federal Minister for the Environment.

We submit that the public ownership of key tracts of land ensures the orderly and efficient allocation of community infrastructure, equitable access to recreational open space, and the conservation and functional integrity of ecological systems.

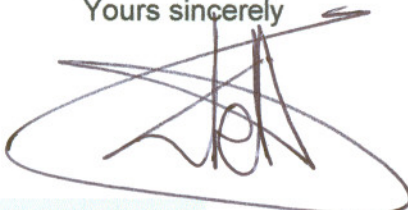
As a general principle we do not believe the public land estate should be diminished, because in an environmental context the land will often be unique, while in an urban context the use of land is often highly adaptive, in that a beneficial public use for public land will inevitably change over time consistent with the changing needs of the community.

Consequently in our view public land should only be sold to acquire new tracts of land for public use of equal or greater value consistent with the lands local, regional or national context. In practice this criteria would rarely be achievable.

Further as the population increases Governments should be ready to increase the quantum of the Public Land Estate.

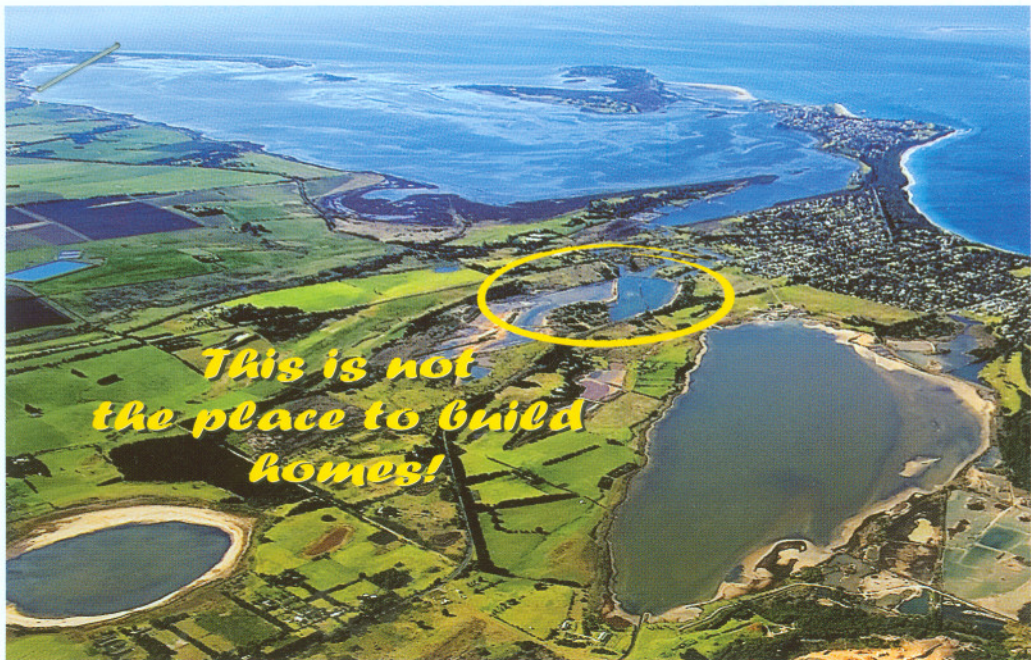
It is in the context of the above guiding principles that we propose that key tracts of land such as Lonsdale Lakes should have long been identified for acquisition and inclusion in the Public Land Estate, in this instance as a consequence of their strategic environmental significance and potential contribution to the public good.

Yours sincerely



David Mitchell  
Executive Committee Member





***This is not  
the place to build  
homes!***

SWAN BAY WETLANDS SYSTEM

POINT LONSDALE VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

Dear Minister

Almost all of the waterways and land circled in yellow known as Lonsdale Lakes are zoned Residential, and subject to an Environmental Effects Study under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Development of this land would

- Destroy an irreplaceable corridor wetland between the internationally recognised RAMSAR wetland and Marine Park of Swan Bay and the Nature Conservation Reserves of Lake Victoria and the Lagoon.
- Threaten the ecology of Swan Bay.

Any application to develop this land for housing must be restricted to conserve the existing waterways with appropriate environmental setbacks.

Yours sincerely Signed.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Email .....

This Card is a Public Record published December 2006 by  
the Point Lonsdale Coastal Spaces Group Inc and  
the Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc

Place  
Stamp  
Here

*To: Senator  
The Hon. Ian Campbell  
Federal Minister for the  
Environment and Heritage  
c/- Point Lonsdale Coastal  
Spaces Group Inc  
PO Box 85  
Point Lonsdale Vic 3225*

