

HANS AS. ROLEFF

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The Secretary  
Legislative Council Select Committee on Public Land Development  
Parliament of Victoria  
Spring Street,  
Melbourne, Vic. 3002

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I wish to submit for consideration by the Committee the following use of public land: Dorset Road, south of Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully – a road reserve which has been in existence since before 1978 when I first moved into the area. My property abuts the reserve between Ormonde St. and the Burwood Highway. Occasionally unregistered trail bikes roar through the lovely landscape, past the single Pine tree in the middle of it., I wrote to a member of parliament and was told that it would be too politically dangerous to temporarily establish a playground, possibly a mountain bike track, a skate board arena, sprint track etc. in this space, in case the facilities or any of them would have to be removed to give way to the Dorset Road extension.

However, during the 29 years I have lived here nothing has ever even looked like involving the development and only the occasional roar of mowing tractors reminds one that this is a government controlled area. Trees were planted years ago along the fences on the southern side; they have grown into giant natural structures. Meanwhile two generations of children playing cricket in often long grass in the reserve and the loud trail bikes have been the only life in this beautiful stretch of public land.

It seems to me even now that nothing will ever be done to this area by government, and it would not be too late to develop it as I suggested above.

It could always be made clear that one day the whole thing might have to be changed again but then perhaps a large number of children have come and gone and would be better off for the facilities afforded by an understanding and caring Government.

I hope this will be so!

Best regards,

  
Hans S. Roleff

8.6.2007