

VEGETABLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA Inc.



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The Secretary
Legislative Council Select Committee on Public Land Development
Parliament House
Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3002.

Dear Mr Willis,

PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT SUBMISSION.

Vegetable Growers Association of Victoria, on behalf of its members owning land located in the green wedge in the municipality of Casey and Mornington, have raised concerns regarding "the sale or alienation of public land for development and the relationship to the Victorian Government's Melbourne 2030 policy and green wedges"

The objectives of the Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987 are to provide for the fair, orderly, economic, sustainable use and development of land. The Melbourne 2030 Policy and Green Wedge's Legislation does not accord landowners any of these opportunities. Instead this legislation imposes such restrictions that our members are unable to carry out any fair, orderly, economic or sustainable development at all.

Our members are required by law to maintain property at their personal expense and not the way they would like it to be maintained, but according to the dictates of other parties who bear none of the financial responsibility.

Accordingly it is considered that the Victorian Government has taken away any property rights to which vegetable growers are entitled. Yet the entire financial responsibility for the property is with the landowner.

It has been questioned :

- Why the Government is preventing owners to develop their land, yet the Government is allowed to develop public land?
- What is the public purpose as claimed by Government that gives it priority to develop government land over private land?
- If the Government needs land for development, why has it set aside so much land for Green Wedge on which development is prohibited?
- Why is the Government allowing special interest groups to develop Green Wedge land and not private landowners?

Affiliated Associations

Australian United Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Association Ltd. (AUF).
Australian and Potato Federation (AUSVEG)
Victorian Farmers Federation Horticultural Group (VFF Hort. Group.)

It is therefore recommended that :

- Private landowners be allowed the same rights as the Government when it comes to green wedge land.
- So-called public land should be retained for future generations.
- A restoration of rights to all landowners in Victoria.
- Abolish the Urban Growth Boundary and abandon the Green Wedge Protection Bill.
- Allow the release of more land that has been unproductive and barren in agricultural and horticultural pursuits.
- Maintain the farm rate on viable farms where ever sustainable farming prevails.
- Ensure that Councils do not charge a general rate over their municipality, which has urban and non-urban zonings.

We would thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission on behalf of our vegetable grower members.

Yours sincerely

Luis Gazzola

Mr. Luis Gazzola.
VGA President.