

Protectors of Public Lands Victoria Inc.
PO Box 197 Parkville 3052

Mr David Davis MLC
Chairman
Select Committee on Public Land Development
Parliament House
East Melbourne VIC 3002

5 October 2007

Dear Mr Davis

SUBMISSION TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT

The Protectors of Public Lands Victoria Inc. (PPL VIC) would like to thank you, the members of the Select Committee and the staff for the opportunity to make this submission. PPL VIC is an active Victoria-wide organisation comprising 79 affiliates. These are active community and issue based groups with significant membership. Many of these affiliates will make a submission directly to you on the particular issues of concern to them.

PPL VIC was established as a central coordination resource for many groups involved in campaigns to protect public land and the like from sell off and inappropriate development and management. The PPL VIC network has enabled the community to see first hand the state-wide mismanagement of public land and the alarming lack of strategic planning and respect for significant community resources exercised by State and Federal Governments, semi Government authorities, Local Government and various NGO's. It is alarming to see these organizations or Government selling off public land to improve their financial bottom line. It is distressing to see this when you consider they originally got the land by grant (free) to perform their role in government and the community.

In the frenzy to sell off public land that reached its height in the 1990's, it is clear that no strategic position was developed to meet any future government/community need. Much of the public land sold off was strategically located, well serviced and large in size. A good example of this would be the numerous school sites in built up urbanized areas that were sold off. Now we find the need for a new school, as a result of population change and growth, cannot adequately be met because government cannot compete against business to purchase suitable land on the open market or has the money necessary to purchase it.

This mismanagement has been repeated many times across Victoria and government to this day appears to have learnt very little. It is hoped that the Select Committee makes recommendations that are taken up in legislation and management practice to ensure we do not repeat the mistakes. Public land is a fundamental and important public asset and should be protected and respected by all and managed for current and future generations.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Chamberlin
President
Protectors of Public Lands Victoria Inc.
Phone contact: 0417017180