



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Select Committee on Public Land Development

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### Submission to The Select Committee on Public Land Development

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

Mr Richard Willis

Dear Sir,

I would like to bring to your attention of the select committee's enquiry into-

- The sale or alienation of public land development and the relationship to the Victorian Government's Melbourne 2030 Policy and Green Wedges.

I, Sam Marchese representing myself and on behalf of my brothers above that the enquiry into public land would also have to take into consideration private landowners of Green Wedges. The Victorian Labor Government seems to have taken control with its restrictive rules, which is turning public land into private land and turning private land into public open space, thus disadvantaging landowners for development of any kind. Therefore creating demand over supply which in turn making it increasingly more difficult to enter the housing market.

My brothers and I have 20 acres of land between us in Heatherton that we hoped one day would be our safety net when we retired. We have been living on our savings for the past 15 years and find that our children now have the job of maintaining us because our funds are disappearing.

We are of Italian background and migrated to Australia to find a better life for our selves and our families and that our children would grow up to understand the concept of democracy. But I would not have believed until now that democracy chose to shut us out, penalising us and striping away our rights of land ownership since the introduction of the Victorian Labor Government's Green Wedge Legislation.

Our land was agricultural, but for the last 15+ years it has sat baron and useless, our dream and the opportunity of giving a piece of it to others has been fruitless.

I would like to know why the Government is preventing me from developing my land yet the Government itself developing public land?

What is the public purpose, which entitles the Government to develop public land before 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?

What evidence does the Government have that the Green Wedges are the lungs of the City?

Why is the Urban Growth Boundary discriminating one side of the road only to benefit the other?

Why do local councils support State legislation when members of their communities continue to oppose the M2030 Strategy against high-rise in their suburbs?

Why is there no compensation for those who have been denied the rights that others enjoy?

Why is it that public land can be developed and not private?

My brothers and I are trying to convey our right for democracy in regards to the Victorian Labor government's policies for green wedges and public land. We believe and will push for equality in this issue in that what is good for the Labor government should also be acceptable for us as landowners. Private landowners should be allowed the same rights as the government when it comes to green wedge land and furthermore that public land should be the retainment of land for future generations.

We need a **restoration of rights to all landowners** here in Victoria. **Local councils need to regain power** for their communities so as to endorse or throw out proposals submitted for developments in their municipality. The Green Wedge Protection bill was not met with proper consultation or presentation towards landowners and therefore should not have a legal stand.

Furthermore **planners need to be able to operate in their own municipality** rather than those in Spring Street. A **Land capability study** is the key to good planning for establishing zonings.

**We urge you to reconsider the treatment towards private landowners whose lives have been imposed on by restrictions and zonings from the Vic. Labor Government relating to Green Wedges and Rural Conservation Zones. The Melbourne 2030 policy needs to be readdressed for the benefit for all concerned and not just the few.**

Thankyou for letting us take the opportunity to submit to the Select Committee on Public Land Development.

Unfortunately we will not be able submit in person.

**The MARCHESE Brothers**

*Also Members of LORA-Land Owners Rights Association Inc.*