



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Select Committee on Public Land Development

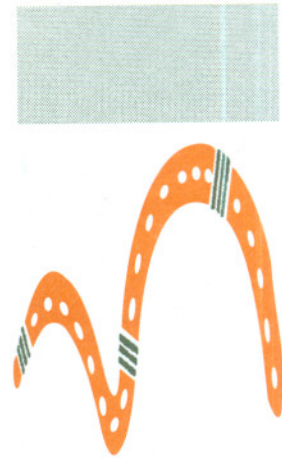
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Your Reference

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The Secretary
Select Committee on Public Land Development
Legislative Council
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MURRINDINDI
SHIRE COUNCIL

"Mist of the mountains"

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Dear Sir

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

On behalf of Murrindindi Shire Council, thank you for the opportunity to participate in the above inquiry.

In broad terms, and having regard to feedback received from members of the Murrindindi community in relation to this matter, Council does not support the transfer of public open space from community control to private ownership.

From a Murrindindi Shire perspective, although it might be said that the Murrindindi Shire is extremely fortunate to be in such beautiful natural surroundings, many areas that are accessible to the public would not now exist if they had been sold off.

In the rare occasions that land might seem to be genuinely of little advantage as open space, then it should be only sold after very lengthy community consultation and in exchange for the acquisition of an equivalent open space in the vicinity.

Council also believes that where public land is proposed to be sold, then the opportunity for the land to remain in community ownership through the local municipality must be offered at no cost to maintain the principle of the land being used for the best public purpose available even though it may not align with purpose of the current government or department.

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Based upon Council's own previous experience, the justification for sale of public space at a particular point in time can ultimately be seen to be short sighted with negative outcomes when considered in the context of future opportunities that may eventuate. This is an over-riding principle that needs to be maintained when issues of public land sale are being discussed.

Yours faithfully



D. D. Hogan
Chief Executive Officer