

Dear Sir,

I am very concerned about the lack of sympathy to the local environment shown by many developers of the land adjacent to Natural Habitats. My particular concern is for the developers of the Springthorpe estate in Macleod. The blocks are small, the houses very large, and it would seem that the agreed habitat links are very narrow and have been cleared in a way not conducive to the well being of the native flora and fauna. (some of the residents want these links to be cleared 'parkland' which is not the intention at all.)

The new residents complain of the bush being so close in case of fire - - so don't come and buy those blocks in the first place.

The priority of the existing habitat should be stressed to both the developers and to those to whom they may sell. What has resulted from this ill-conceived development seems like one huge grab for money. Considering the surroundings and beauty of the area, (presumably why some people built there) it is amazing how few of the new residents of Springthorpe are interested in helping conserve the areas abutting their blocks, and the lack of thought being put into what they are planting in sensitive areas.

Houses on this estate are also built under huge old river gums which are wonderful trees but which are prone to dropping branches when they get older - the next thing we know, there will be demands to pull down these listed trees because they are dangerous. They should have been built under if they are to be preserved - the building activity in the surrounding ground makes them more dangerous.

This is just one of many developments which I happen to have a close interest in - there are many other examples which I see in my travels. When I first came to live in this area, we believed there to be a green wedge not far beyond our block - this has long gone so it is all the more imperative that the remaining precious bushland be valued and maintained for the future.

Yours faithfully,

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Friends of the Melbourne Wildlife Sanctuary and Wildlife Reserves.

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(Sent via email 16.09.2007)