

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

27 September 2007.

Attention: Mr Richard Willis

Subject: Inquiry into the Sale and Development of Public Land and Open Public Space in Victoria.

Dear Sir,

Our family have been residents of Sutherland Ward of the Nillumbik Shire for the past fourteen years. Recently we have participated in the Nillumbik Shire Council's Community Talkback, a consultation process of some residents to float the idea of relocating the Nillumbik Shire Offices (Civic Centre) from their current location in Civic Drive Greensborough to a new location in Main Road Eltham.

The Community Talkback Document claimed that the Civic Centre 'has many deficiencies' and proposed 3 options, A B & C as long term solutions for the Council's needs. All Three options involve the sale of approximately 6.5 hectares of public land surrounding the Civic Centre and potentially the existing Civic Centre Building.

It appears, in the Community Talkback document, that the Council's preferred option is option C, which involves selling the 6.5 hectares of public space for residential high density development and the existing Civic Centre, to fund a new Civic Centre in Main Road Eltham only 7 kms away. The document appears deliberately biased towards option C in many ways.

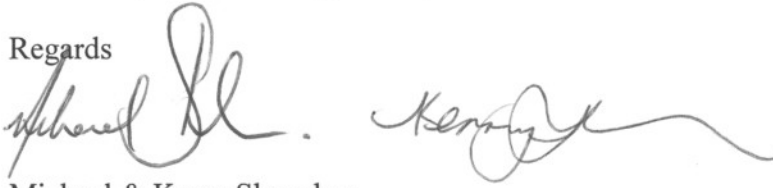
Further to this document there were 3 community meetings instigated by Nillumbik Council, one each in Apollo Parkways (7 attendees), Diamond Creek (4 attendees) and Eltham (approx 24 attendees). As a result of community concern since these workshops, a petition generated by Apollo Parkways residents against the sale of any of the 6.5 hectares of public space or the existing Civic Centre was signed by over 1000 people, the majority being residents of the shire. This petition was sent to Nillumbik Council as evidence that the community was not in favour of any sale of public space.

A report into the Civic Centre future was accepted at Council on the 25th September, 2007 which stated that option C was the most favoured by the community and that a master plan should proceed on the development of the existing and potential new site.

In summary, why should public space, enjoyed not only by the local but the wider community, which represents a place for all people to utilise & enjoy, be sold off for a minority to raise capital (approx \$16M) to fund an excessive development of facilities which already exist.

We thank you for this opportunity to submit our concerns.

Regards

Handwritten signatures of Michael and Kerry Shanahan. The signature on the left is for Michael, and the signature on the right is for Kerry. Both are written in cursive.

Michael & Kerry Shanahan
83 Corowa Cres
Greensborough
Vic 3088