

Tuesday, 25 September, 2007

Matt Sheppard
32 Crana Grove
Greensborough 3088

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

Re: Proposed Sale and Development of Public Land in Civic Drive, Greensborough by the Shire Council of Nillumbik to finance the relocation of the Civic Centre to Eltham.

I strongly object to the proposed sale of the Civic Centre and any surrounding public land in Apollo Parkways, Greensborough. I believe that public land in Civic Drive should remain an open space that can be used for outdoor sports and recreation activities. I would lobby to see this land being rezoned for all residents to use, and not turned into a residential high density profit pot for council.

The Nillumbik Shire Council is so far out of step with the community and its own funding requirements, that in a mere 10 years since occupying the current premises, they see fit to have to invest a staggering \$16.7 million on a brand new, purpose built complex. Since funding for this project would not meet any financial institution lending criteria, or be able to be borne directly by rate payers, the sale of community land is apparently the only option.

Further to this, while statutory *minimum* community notification and legislations may have been complied with, the council has attempted to downplay and trivialise the impact of their proposal on the community. Council have been belligerent with their attitude towards over 1000 letters of petition against the proposed land sale, despite the short and somewhat discreet method of notification.

Notwithstanding the loss of open land and recreation that the proposed site constitutes, Council have again ~~shown an ineptitude in forward planning with respect to infrastructure for this development.~~ Traffic congestion already blights the corridor to Northerly suburbs at many times of the day. Issues concerning schooling and hospital facilities, child care and recreation are poorly addressed as it is, this development will only serve to exacerbate the current situation.

Council do have alternatives. I feel they have an obligation to their constituents to preserve the community assets for all to enjoy. A modest and more cost effective improvement on current facilities would be a fraction of the cost, and at a fraction of the time, which would allow council to get on with the items they have been empowered to do.

Please apply whatever authority you may have to allow proper Community consultation on this matter and ensure fairness is applied to the submissions made to council. Please offer assistance to the community to coordinate a considered proposal from Council. Please allow time for the Community to fully understand the proposal and ensure everyone has the opportunity to respond. Please do whatever you can, to stop Council from expediting the sale of this land for its own means. Please allow me access to any hearing on this matter.

Faithfully Yours,


Matt Sheppard.