

26 January 2009

Victorian Environment Assessment Council  
Level 6, 8 Nicholson St,  
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

Dear sir/madam

I write to make a submission regarding the Crown land on the Merri and Edgars Creek parkland site at Coburg North in the City of Moreland. The land is presently owned by VicRoads and was once earmarked for a freeway linking the Western Ring Road to the city.

In my view the Crown land on the Merri and Edgars Creek parkland site at Coburg North should be gifted to the City of Moreland. VicRoads should not make a monetary gain by selling the land because the desired use no longer exists. Additionally, the City of Moreland has maintained the area for 30 years at considerable cost to ratepayers.

In the City of Melbourne, there are minimal chances to develop parkland. The Crown land on the Merri and Edgars Creek parkland site at Coburg North is one of those chances and should be taken for the benefit of the community.

The Merri Creek and Edgars Creek are tributaries of the Yarra River and water that flows along these creeks make a significant contribution to the Yarra River. Melbourne's lower Yarra River is the city's tourism and recreation heart. The Yarra has played a pivotal role in the pre-European history and the modern development of Melbourne. The Merri and Edgars Creek parkland should be preserved for the future.

My father, James Murray Gavin O.A.M. was the Mayor of Coburg for a record four terms during his 24 years as a Councillor. His ward was East Coburg which encompassed the Crown land on the Merri and Edgars Creek parkland site at Coburg North. There was an opportunity to develop vacant land at the end of the street where I live in Pascoe Vale and it was named *Gavin Park* in 1982 in recognition of the service given to Coburg by the Gavin family. The community can use *Gavin Park* every day for recreation.

The best outcome for the community is that the Crown land on the Merri and Edgars Creek parkland site at Coburg North be gifted to the City of Moreland as a parkland asset to be held for the future.

Yours faithfully

**Paul Gavin**

CC Councillor Toby Archer, Merri and Edgars Creek Parkland Group  
Kelvin Thomson MP