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To veac@dse.vic.gov.au  
cc

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No: 35

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Subject EDGARS CREEK PARKLAND [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council  
Level 6, 8 Nicholson Street  
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

Wednesday, 4 February 2009

To whom it may concern,

My name is Renee Dunne and I am a resident of Coburg North. My partner Jeremy Cole is from the UK and has lived and worked in Australia for over ten years. We both love this wonderful country and more specifically the Moreland area, as it is rich in cultural diversity and is a family friendly place to live. We moved from South Melbourne in 2006 after purchasing a property in Coburg North. We specifically chose to live in the Lakeside area of Coburg as we love all the parkland and open space.

I am 36 years old and I was born in Brunswick. I went to primary school at St Ambrose in Brunswick and secondary school at Mercy College, Coburg. Our swimming carnivals were held at the **now reopened Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool, which incidentally we had to fight to save.** My point here is I have 36 years of history in the Moreland area and I have witnessed many inappropriate developments within the Moreland area. As a teenager I attended council meetings and took part in a huge campaign to stop land being rezoned industrial (Whelan Tip Issue 1989). The outcome to this was more parkland for the Moreland area.

I find it appalling that the Edgars Creek parkland is under threat of development. Does anyone care at all where our children's children will play? Does anyone care at all about all the beautiful flora /fauna? Don't they have a right to be protected? Currently anyone in Moreland who buys a property can cut down all the trees without a permit as it is their land? Are we serious? What is happening in this country? Why is everyone out to make a quick buck at the expense of nature and the community? Do we have any social and environmental or moral responsibilities at all?

**How sad to think that in less than 70 years that lake and creek has become so polluted by factories and rubbish that even dogs are technically not permitted to swim in it? 70 years – less than a blink in time and we have trashed it. Isn't it time to take a stance and treat this area with the respect it deserves?**

Below are some of the reasons why Edgars Creek Parkland should be saved

- Reducing public open space is in contravention of the objectives of the government's Melbourne 2030 objectives.
- Moreland has a deficit of public open space. Over 145 ha has already been lost due to closure of public schools in the 1990s.
- The Moreland City Council (ie ratepayers) have been asked to pay \$9.5m for the land to avoid it being sold off to developers. Why should the residents of Moreland pay again when land is already publicly owned?
- Moreland residents pay \$3m a year in Parkland Fees to Melbourne Water (ie the state government) but almost none of that money has ever come back to Moreland.
- A green buffer between residential areas and the Newlands Core Industrial Precinct is needed to protect residential amenity.
- There are two exclusion zones already in place to protect people from lead and concrete hazards coming from factories in the industrial precinct - development inside these zones would be highly inappropriate.
- Much of the land is designated as land subject to inundation in the planning scheme and the area is intended to take overland storm water flows. This should prohibit the development of the land.
- Any development faces road network constraints. Additional traffic on the Newlands Road and its bridge intersection with Murray Road will result in unacceptable levels of traffic congestion.
- The area is of ecological significance. The Department of Sustainability and Environment (2006) Atlas of Victorian Wildlife records 48 fauna species within 1.5km of the Kodak Bridge over Edgar's Creek. Appro

I request that you consider all the reasons why we need this parkland not just for us today but for the future generations who will live and love this beautiful area.

I look forward to hearing from you and respectfully request that you truly try to understand why this is so important to more than just the human beings trying to make a difference.

Yours respectfully,