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No: 49

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I understand that the Victorian Government has decided to investigate the use of Crown Land across 29 Melbourne municipalities and in particular the use of Crown owned land in Moreland, including the Edgars Creek Parkland.

The plan to use the land as a highway leading to the City along the Merri Creek was environmentally unsound and short-sighted to say the least. That the Government is now considering using the Edgars Creek park space for housing development is again completely unwise. Quite apart from the fact that the area in question is prone to flooding and not appropriate for housing, it is a unique and valuable space for bird life and a vital breathing space for residents in this concrete jungle in which we live.

Along with many other residents I enjoy the 'breathing space' which the Edgars Creek Parkland provides. Current tree planting programs are bringing back bird life and will provide shade and much needed healthy air in time. Previous tree planting programs along the two creeks have already made a critical and valuable difference to the environment. As a long-time resident I have witnessed a great improvement to the environment since these programs were first established.

With the recent Pentridge and imminent Kodak site housing developments there has been, and will be, significant influx of people into the area putting the existing infrastructure under greater pressure. With so many new homes in the vicinity of the Edgars Creek Parkland the need to keep the parkland intact is even more critical for the physical and mental welfare of residents. The area is already in great demand for people walking their dogs, for general recreation, and for 'breathing'.

The strip of land that is to be investigated is a valuable part of this precinct and should be handed over to the Moreland City Council free of charge on the proviso that it is managed as public open space. Any other decision would be a serious mistake.

Yours sincerely

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Robert Hicks