



Richard Davies

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To veac@dse.vic.gov.au

cc

bcc

Subject Edgar Creek Parkland

**Metropolitan Melbourne**  
**Metropolitan Melbourne**

2

No: 84

To Whom It May Concern,

We write to voice concern about reports that Edgar Creek Reserve may be in line for redevelopment.

My partner and I own two whippets and discovered the park accidentally, when we realised that our dogs needed a safe place to occasionally run and let off steam. Since then we have made several good friends and many more acquaintances, meeting other dog owners and golfers who also use the park.

This park is open space that is the circuit breaker for many people in the city fringe, making hectic lives liveable. People use the park cooperatively and peacefully for many different pursuits like off-lead dog running, a nature walk for young children, golfing, flying kites and model planes, bike-riding and general exercise. It is well patronised by small groups of people and animals at most times of the day and evening. It is not like the often over-populated nearby Coburg Lake and definitely not surplus to it. It offers a feeling of apparent solitude and quiet for many residents of Coburg and Preston that no other public space in the area can match. Redeveloping this area for more housing would be a terrible mistake, leaving the door open for social disharmony in the future.

It is tempting in this era of global warming to revoke the advice that this area has been previously deemed a flood plain, but given the erratic nature of our weather, one must consider future flooding as being more, rather than less likely. We have seen what the reserve is like after prolonged heavy rain and can't imagine housing on it. We predict many angry new, as well as old residents, should the council or state utilities consider such a move.

We also expect that when Labor governments align at local, state and national level, that threats of redevelopment such as these should simply not reach first base. People vote for Labor because (mistakenly or not) they believe this party is more socially orientated and eager to preserve the good life for working people, in particular. We do not expect spaces that the community rightly call their own, suddenly taken away from them. I know that VicRoads' apparent ownership of this land complicates matters, but we are tired of hearing that money is the root of the problem. If we live in such an affluent society, why can't we make money work for the good of the community, rather than against it, as so often seems to be the case?

I urge the parties involved in this redevelopment proposal to think again and remember that you are our servants - not simply dictators of our fate. You will make many enemies if the reserve's redevelopment is allowed to go ahead. Enemies with very long memories for the people and parties who have let them down.

Yours Sincerely,  
Richard Davies and Harry Kyriakou