

Metropolitan Melbourne



Roger Fyfe

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cc

bcc

Subject Submission by Roger Fyfe - VEAC Melbourne Metropolitan Investigation

No: 155

Please find attached my submission to the VEAC Melbourne Metropolitan Investigation.

Regards

Roger Fyfe



Roger Fyfe VEAC Melbourne Metropolitan Investigation Submission.docx

VEAC Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation – Submission by Roger Fyfe

Congratulations on a receiving a “hospital hand-pass” (see Notice of Investigation below).

Notice of Investigation

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change has requested the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to carry out an investigation of Crown land and public authority land in 29 municipalities in metropolitan Melbourne*.

The purposes of the investigation are to: □(a) systematically identify and assess the uses, resources, condition, values and management of Crown land, and public authority land in metropolitan Melbourne; □(b) assess values of Crown land, and public authority land for areas not committed to a specific use, and report on appropriate future uses relevant to Melbourne's liveability and natural values; and □(c) report on the contribution of Crown land, and public authority land to Melbourne's liveability and opportunities for enhancement of this contribution.

Unlike recent investigations - conducted in areas remote from Melbourne, where impacts of changes in land use can be characterized in terms of hundreds of jobs lost and where most Melbourne residents will not be directly affected – this study will impact directly on every Melbourne resident in some way.

It will also require the complete cooperation of government departments, agencies and corporations as well as local government. Current zoning of land should be described.

Further, the determination of precise boundaries cannot be left until later in the process. In order for meaningful submissions to be made, every parcel of land under investigation will have to allocated a discrete identifier. In addition, contiguous land under control or management by local government will need to be cross-referenced to ensure the attributes of each area can be discussed. This will require a massive database.

Assuming you receive the complete cooperation of government departments, agencies, local government and public authorities – that their databases are compatible – and ground truth is accurately reflected in those records, then you can begin to array the data in a form that is sufficiently detailed to be comprehensible to a layperson.

For individual submissions to the Investigation to have relevance, each individual parcel of land must have a separate identifier and detailed plan. In addition, the values/conflicts have to be concisely described.

Potential Issues

The following indicate just some of the issues that will require detailed attention.

Protection of native grasslands. Under-represented in the Reserve system. Some remnants are on areas favoured for intensive development.

Recognition of existing uses. Boat Houses, Rowing Club facilities, bathing boxes and jetties (remember the Land Conservation Council Melbourne Area recommendation to phase out bathing boxes).

Where **intensive recreation** takes place, for example a sports oval, consideration should be given to stating that the existing use, developments and parking requirements are an acceptable use. There is already a massive shortfall in areas suitable for intensive recreation in many of the study area's municipalities.

Recognition of conflicting uses – Where there are values to be protected and diverse recreation users, be aware that pressure groups – much more numerous and vocal than those you have encountered in country investigations – will agitate to preserve their rights. Example, **Darebin Parklands**. This area is jointly managed by the Cities of Banyule, and Darebin. The recently approved Management Plan reflects pressure by dog owners for off-lead and water-play areas for dogs. Melbourne Water opposed the proposed water play pool in Darebin Creek. Darebin Creek comprises a waterway as well as the municipal boundary.

Surplus School Sites. See Intensive Recreation needs, above. Many school grounds have existing playing fields that are used by the community. **Any school closure should include an evaluation of the recreation needs of the surrounding and proposed communities.**

Freeway Reservations and Railway easements. Developers are increasingly seeking to roof over railway land, especially cuttings. Have all the values been identified and recorded?

Conclusion

You have been handed an immense task. In the absence of further clarification from the government, excluding certain classes and areas of land, it is an unrealistic reporting deadline that you have been set.

Roger Fyfe