



Malvern East Group

MEG Supports *PLANNING BACKLASH*

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The Malvern East Group (MEG) welcomes this study and the opportunity to comment.

Please note the following points:-

- The importance of open space with vegetation to the liveability of the city in terms of the physical and mental health of its citizens is recognised by authorities such as VicHealth. (Age..Dec.20/10)
- The lack of open space per capita in Stonnington and in the neighbouring municipality of Glen Eira as highlighted in the VEAC Discussion Paper and reported in the Age (Dec.20/10) is significant.
- There are inadequate provisions for obtaining meaningful developer contributions towards the compulsory provision of compensatory open space with appropriate plantings.
- There is a lack of mandatory requirements for developers to leave space on their sites for adequate and appropriate landscaping.
- The 'open sesame' population policy for Melbourne causes detriment to residential amenity and the general liveability of the city.
- The term 'surplus public land' is an oxymoron. The land that authorities deem to be 'surplus' is owned by the community and should be landscaped for community use.
- There appears to be lack of accuracy re existing parks, gardens and open space in the VEAC paper.
- Public open space must be permanently protected and NEVER be sold.
- The need for an urban forest in every municipality such as the one in the eastern part of Stonnington is obvious and the development site at 590 Orrong Rd. should be acquired by Government for the purpose of providing such a facility in the western section of the municipality given the significant lack of open space in that area. this would go some way in addressing that issue.
- All reports indicate the appalling lack of initiative shown by recent State Governments in actively adding to open space in the city. This is evidenced in their obscene haste to sell school sites to developers rather than retaining them as public open space.
- The VEAC paper does not give any attention to the rapid decrease of open space at existing school sites. Federal funding for additional buildings on those sites rather than for the construction of new schools has systematically reduced open space for "playtime." For example at Armadale P.S. children have to be taken to a local park to play. Supervision in this situation is

difficult and time is taken from normal curricula activities. Malvern P.S. has succeeded in having exclusive use of Penpraze Park from 8.30 to 4.30 each school day because open space on school property is inadequate. The people who OWN that park have severely restricted access.

- **Proposals for managing the sale(s) of public land are to be deplored. This land is OUR land and legislation should require that it never be sold nor, indeed, be given away as the Stonington mansion site was with three successive governments culpable of removing ownership of that land from the people of Victoria.**
- **It must be noted that there is a significant lack of action and reference to it in the VEAC paper re the recommendations made by the Select Committee on Public Land Development.**
- **The prospect of public open space per capita being halved by 2026 is daunting (Age Dec. 20/10) and requires all levels of Government to work WITH the community in an attempt to halt this decline.**
- **The adverse impacts of this continuing decline is exacerbated by the rapid loss of private open space due to State Planning Policies which do not protect suburbs from opportunistic and inappropriate development...i.e. the sort of development that requires NO developer contribution and little or no landscaping. The trees that contribute to a less-polluted environment and mitigate the effects of heat are destroyed with impunity. Vegetation laws cannot compete successfully with greed.**
- **MEG notes in its 2009 submission to VEAC, Glen Eira Council calls for an enquiry re the Crown Land at Caulfield Racecourse which was the subject of submissions to the Select Committee. This land was bequeathed to the people of Victoria for recreational purposes by Queen Victoria and despite community and Council opposition MRC trustees are proceeding with plans for a monstrous development proposal. An investigation into the Trustees' management of this priceless bequest is essential. MEG also notes that despite the request by Glen Eira Council proceedings re the investigation have not commenced. Members of the public who OWN the land do not have free access to any part of it.**

Ann Reid