

Secretary: *A. K. D. A.*

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Colin McKenna

Environment and Heritage Committee
The House of Representatives
Parliament House,
Canberra. A.C.T. 2600.

Dear Sirs,

I am addressing the two subjects listed for your committee.
First the ENVIRONMENT.

Let me point out that I am well aware that cities need environment friendly areas to breathe. They must have space between their outer fringe and the next urban development.

London City has a green belt, I have seen photo's of it. They depict open Farm land with the original Heritage Farm buildings.

Other capital cities of the world have similar preserved areas. New Yorks Central Park for instance.
After world War Two, in the following years Melbourne developed a green belt. But a fellow whose name was Alan Croxford, was at the time Head of the Metropolitan Board of Works, saw fit to alter it to the green wedge concept. Reasons unknown.

Warrandyte has National Parks encompassed in its boundaries plus trees growing on every house block, too many for fire safety in my opinion. Although it is further North than Park Orchards it is sewered. Park Orchards is not. The pipes necessary to complete the grid have been in place on the fringe of Park Orchards for fifteen years.

Why is this matter urgent, I will quote six reasons located in the Park Orchards Ward.

- 2 Kindergartens.
- 2 Primary schools, (up to year 6)
- 2 large Private Colleges, (to H.S.C. standard).

I live on the very fringe of the green wedge, in this area, when the Council see fit, some development is permitted.

The latest area in this category is a 45 acre orchard, broken up to segments for what they say are justified reasons. My home is on the South side of Stintons Road. The area adjoining my property running along Stintons Roads Southside to Knees Road Is heavily overgrown with undergrowth.

If this area was permitted to be cut up into one acre sites it would present a fire break for Park Orchards. Each householder would maintain safety regulations, plus environment friendly gardens.

At the moment with heavy undergrowth on both the North and South sides of Stintons Road, if lit, would create a tunnel of flame. The fire chief would not allow his trucks to travel down the road.

HERITAGE.

My home and block, is land that has been in the "Young" family since 1937. Its first owner Richard Young sold it to his brother Edward Young in 1946. This was before the concept of green wedge was ever dreamed of. Edward Young had three children, his promise to them, help me pay it off and I will give you a 5 acre block each. This he did.

Now my wife and I find ourselves in the same position as the Indigenous Aboriginals. We own our land but certain rights have been stolen from us with no offer of compensation. Why should I claim rights?.

I and my two brothers gave fourteen years combined service in World War Two, defending this country. We were discharged in 1946 and worked for the next forty years in constant employment. No dole payments. Now retired we are told we have very limited rights, we assumed we did everything right, where did we go wrong?.

A one acre site in our area is worth \$500,000. This has been paid. I have four one acre sites, is the government going to compensate us with 2 million dollars?. I think not or should I say, not without litigation. All my life, goods or property, if I wanted them I paid for them. The Government attitude is that they are immune from payment. It has the hallmark of a fairy story, unfortunately for us it is real life.

The land on the South side side of Stintons Road is owned by twenty-three owners, if they were all paid 2 million dollars each it would total 46 million dollars. Is it an impossible amount of money?. The government picks up this amount of money in speed fines every year, over and above budget, so the suggestion is possible and feasible.

Yours sincerely,

A. M. Herma