

**The Editor
The Sunday Age**

I write in response to Julianne Bell's letter in last weeks Sunday Age. My group the Greater Shepparton Botanic Gardens Association (GSBGA) has joined the Protectors of Public Lands as our ratepayers have had to fight, not once but twice, in a four year period to save our parkland from developers. In December 1995 the then Commissioners resolved to redevelop a twenty hectare site, which had previously been a tourist project known as the International Village. The redevelopment would include 54 housing allotments. After receiving thirty four (34) objections the Commissioners decided that the site should be retained as a parkland with the profits from another housing development alongside the site to be used to maintain and further develop the park. The site was now renamed Parkside Gardens. Four years later our association was formed with the aim of developing gardens at Parkside Gardens. It was then that we learned that Council was, once again, planning a housing estate for Parkside Gardens. VicUrban has presented a plan for 148 housing allotments on the site. Three and a half years later the rezoning application has been heard. This resulted in Council receiving four hundred and forty two (442) objections representing five hundred and twenty six people (526) and three (3) supporting submissions. Council was unable to make a decision and has "handballed" it to the Planning Minister for advice from her Independent Panel! We thought that even if council continues to pursue this matter then VicUrban, a government instrumentality, would have the sense to know that the public does not want their blasted housing estate.

**Bill Brown
Chairman GSBGA**

**41 Colliver Road Shepparton
Ph: (03) 5821 7569**