

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

21ST January 2004

At City Council's December meeting, six of the seven councillors voted to send the proposed planning scheme amendments submissions for Parkside Gardens to the Minister for Planning Mary Delahunty. Cr Wilson, who opposes residential development, was an apology for the meeting. The Minister has now appointed a two person panel to consider those submissions before any final decision can be made about the public parkland site.

Cr John Gray's comments at that meeting may be of interest to submitters on this issue. He was heard to say that he has been involved in at least 40 meetings on the Parkside Gardens future (former International Village site) over the past seven years. Surely this must indicate to the councillor the significance of this issue, and that his "rational" opinion may be out of balance with the broader community.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment wrote to 483 submitters (only 3 supported housing), about a direction hearing and public panel hearing dates. The letters may have confused as they did not state Parkside Gardens as the site at issue.

A reminder that Planning Panels Victoria panel will conduct a directions hearing in the Function Room No 2 at the Eastbank Centre, City of Greater Shepparton, 90 Welsford Street Shepparton next Tuesday 27th January 2004 commencing at 10AM. Though this time may be inconvenient to some submitters, this is a vital opportunity to hear how the panel hearing process works and to register to have your submission heard at the February panel hearings 16th - 20th February.

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