

# **Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc. (CRRA)**

## **Media Release**

**Subject: Cardinia Shire Council's bid to sell off community owned public open space for housing development despite the Planning Minister's decision refusing Amendment C66.**

Residents are shocked and outraged by the Cardinia Shire Council (CSC) reaction to the decision of the Minister for Planning refusing its plan to sell off the Pakenham golf course and adjoining community owned land for housing development.

CSC did not formally acknowledge the Minister's decision handed down on 10<sup>th</sup> August, other than two individual notices of motion by a councilor at the 20<sup>th</sup> August Council Meeting and a request from the President of Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association (CRRA) forcing the Mayor to read aloud the Minister's letter of refusal for the benefit of ratepayers in the public gallery.

There is obviously no intent by CSC to comply with the decision of the planning Minister which is in line with the 2005 expert Panel recommendation to abandon the project.

This Council is still in there punching after the final bell has gone, by trying to come up with some alternative means of selling off the land and ignoring the need for open space and parkland for the future community.

Offering the land to a developer who will sit on it for five years and then make a financial killing is just not on.

This Council has already spent \$600,000 of our money fighting us and pushing the unpopular development forward. After a three year battle, we have very low resources but CRRA will still oppose this every step of the way.

This land was given to the Council and ratepayers by local farmers in 1977 with formal legal agreement that it be used for public recreation. It has not cost the Council a cent.

We will be calling for a public enquiry into why the Council was able to sign up to a contract with a developer in 2004, after there had been more than a hundred objections and long before any approval was available for the project. The developer now expects to get the land at the agreed 2004 price although its value in 2007 is greatly increased.

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