



BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP

25 Main Street, Blackburn 3130

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BULLETIN NO. 20

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A 'CRUNCH' TIME FOR BLACKBURN

The next twelve months is critical to the future of Blackburn. For those who value the distinctive character of the area and are concerned about neighbourhood amenity, it is time (once again!) to do something about it !

State Government Planning Reforms require Council to review land use strategies (once again!) and, from September, to implement changes to a consolidated Planning Scheme by translation of old Zones to new and by commencing work on Amendments for local variations. Consultants have been engaged (once again!) to assist in this process.

From next March elected Councillors will have the power to decide on those changes to Residential Zones which are not direct translations (eg. Residential C to Residential 1). But it will be difficult for them to reject changes which reflect land use strategies accepted by the present Administration.

It is therefore important that the 1997 elected Council does not inherit from the present Administration planning measures which disadvantage residents' interests. Avoiding this might not prove an easy task, especially if the changeover is accompanied by disruption of staff resulting from yet another reorganisation.

Not unrelated to the Planning Reform process will be the recommendations on the Urban Village Project and Shopping Centre Action Plan, arrangements for future municipal elections, *and the attitude of this present Council to current development applications.*

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU ?

Your home and the Blackburn environment in which it is set are important to everyone in BVRG. But if you expect that home and that environment to have some chance of a predictable future our collective interests as local residents must be clearly reflected in planning strategies and policies *adopted and applied by Council - the Responsible Authority.*

Otherwise it might well be too late to object when one day your favoured route to the shops or station is closed, or an intrusive development looms next door. Past experience and the recent messages from the Glen Ebor (see below) and Blackburn Road developments are clear.

Your Committee has endeavoured to represent residents' interests on the various issues outlined above. But at this critical time we cannot continue to operate effectively on all fronts without active help from other members.

First and foremost, our coffers need to be replenished in order to meet current and anticipated expenses (and because we didn't ask you last year!). So we ask those who haven't recently paid to make your annual contribution of \$10 (single or family) \$5 (concession). Please make out your cheque now and send to Hon.Treasurer,BVRG,25 Main Street,Blackburn 3130.

We shall also be calling on individuals for administrative assistance and for help with short term and/or specific tasks on sub-committees or panels.

THE GLEN EBOR AVENUE APPEAL

Following the second day of the AAT Hearing on 20 March the Tribunal again adjourned until 6 May. We thank those of you who have written to the Tribunal, attended the Hearing or helped meet the costs of the Appeal. We hope others can write, or attend on 6 May. Please contact David Morrison (9894 2531) or John Cant (9877 7281) for further details.

To help the Glen Ebor Action Group meet the significant costs of the Appeal we have contributed a further \$150. If you can also help them please send a cheque made out to 'M.S.Tate Glen Ebor Action Group' c/o Mr.M.Tate,30 Glen Ebor Avenue, Blackburn, 3130.

OUR THANKS TO THE BVRG REPRESENTATIVES WHO...

1) joined nominees of other local groups who met last month with local MLA Roger Pescott. They obtained his support in seeking from the Commissioners an adequate response to concerns about erosion of provisions designed to protect the Special Residential Zone (SRZ) and his undertaking to ask the Minister to endorse the suitability of the SRZ for a Planning Scheme Variation.

2) attended one of the March workshops held to consider Council's Election Strategy. Your Committee would prefer that all Blackburn be within one Ward where, in Town Planning terms, residential use predominates; and that there be 2 or 3 Councillors for each Ward.