



Merri Creek and Trawalla Avenue, Thomastown

Background on the [proposed sale of public land](#).

We are asking you to write to the relevant ministers letting them know of your concerns and asking them to act to prevent this sale of public land. If we are to retain this part of the Merri corridor, we need to act now.

Although the local Member for Thomastown, Bronwyn Halfpenny, was good enough to meet with FoMC representatives to discuss the issue, we have had no response to our letters from the Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne, or the Minister for Water, Lisa Neville.

In those letters, we proposed a very reasonable compromise in which the land would be leased to the adjoining industrial landholder for a period of 10-15 years, and then returned to the community and rehabilitated as part of the Upper Merri Regional Parklands.

It is especially noteworthy that the Suburban Parks Program of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has advised the Minister for Environment, Lily D'Ambrosio, that the land is required for inclusion in the Parklands, and this advice provides her colleagues with sufficient legal grounds not to proceed with the sale.

Not having had a reply from two key Ministers on this important issue of community access to public land, we ask you to help our campaign to preserve a parcel of the Creek frontage in a biodiverse regional park by sending emails highlighting why you value the Merri Creek parklands, and your concerns with the situation.

The relevant Ministers are:

Minister for Water, Hon. Lisa Neville, at lisa.neville@parliament.vic.gov.au

Suggested points to make: Minister Neville has the power to direct Melbourne Water not to proceed with the sale.

Minister for Planning, Hon. Richard Wynne, at richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au

Suggested points to make: request Minister Wynne to not approve the rezoning to Industrial zone of this land which should be incorporated into the Merri Parklands. The deficiencies of a planning system that allows a company to occupy public land, and then have such an encroachment confirmed by sale, may be worthy of comment.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, at lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au

Suggested points to make: the Suburban Parks Program has stated that the land is required for inclusion in the Upper Merri Regional Parklands, and ask Minister D'Ambrosio to make representations to her Ministerial colleagues to that end.

When you write to Ministers, could you please -cc Friends of Merri Creek at friendsofmerricreek@gmail.com so we know how many community voices are being raised?

With thanks on behalf of our beautiful waterway.