

Parks & Playgrounds Movement Inc

12 July 2004 - *Honeysuckle Growth Centre*

Two items were published in The Herald last week regarding Honeysuckle.

The Growth Centres (Development Corporations) 1974 legislation should be reviewed and normal Planning powers returned to the elected Councillors.

The only open and fair review would be by public hearings through the commission of inquiry process. The planning & assessment process should be clear and transparent not confusing. The Growth Centre should be revoked especially Order Dec.2002.

There is machinery in our democracy for changing plans. But it is you that must speak up. There is no one up there looking after the public interest. Is Honeysuckle still working on the 1992 "Approved Scheme" under the Growth Centres Act?

You probably have 2 weeks to do something about keeping train services to Newcastle after that you may have to throw out the Carr Government to get change. Surely Bob can be persuaded to stick to ALP policy and change the Honeysuckle "Approved Scheme"

The Herald won't print the attached Parks and Playgrounds Movement letter. Its up to you now to write and let the world know what you think.

Doug Lithgow

Dear Editor,

Philip Pollard *The Herald* 6/7 concedes that mistakes were made with Becton but sees virtue in the Lee Wharf design and Ran Boydell in his reply *The Herald* 8/7 points to the manipulative planning process that has produced an outcome with little resemblance to what was promised.

Honeysuckle operates its own "Approved Scheme" for the Honeysuckle Growth Centre and is in all respects under the direction and control of the Hon Craig Knowles. It is a ministerial corporation and quasi-council for the extended growth centre. (See map of area)

The Growth Centres Act distorted planning in the mature Newcastle planning region. The legislation was originally enacted to facilitate the now disbanded Albury/Wodonga and Bathurst/Orange Growth Centres, which were inappropriate models for Honeysuckle.

The \$100 million dollar Building Better Cities money, the Newcastle Earthquake and the closure of the BHP also clouded the closed loop between Honeysuckle and the Minister.

The Honeysuckle legislation should be reviewed and a more transparent framework adopted with local government planning fully restored to the elected Newcastle Councillors.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Lithgow

President, Parks and Playgrounds Movement

<http://www.geocities.com/parksandplaygrounds/>