

Parks & Playgrounds Movement Inc

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Councillors
Newcastle City Council

Dear Councillors,

Probity and Transparency essential at Honeysuckle prior to determination by Minister: Honeysuckle (Development Corporations) Act

Honeysuckle is in the news today *The Herald* 22/3/04 pg 17 Re, the next major development at Central Honeysuckle. This should not be a contentious issue it is simply a matter of probity and transparency in the assessment process before determination by the Minister.

A Commissioner of Inquiry is needed to hear all stakeholders as well as the Council in an open and transparent way free from the perception of conflict of interest.

The Minister is in direct control of the Honeysuckle Development Corporation under Act of Parliament (See Sec 4 Constitution of Corporation)

The Minister is the consent authority for the project.

The Lord Mayor is a Member of the Honeysuckle Board and has used his casting vote in Council to frustrate an open and transparent assessment of the project.

Your attention is drawn to Sec 4 the Act under which the Ministerial Corporation *Honeysuckle Development Corporation* is incorporated.

Section 4 Constitution of the development corporations (*Honeysuckle*)

(1) Upon an order under Sec 5 (2) taking effect...hereby constituted a development corporation in respect of the growth centre specified.

(2) For the purposes of the act, a development corporation shall be deemed to be a statutory body representing the crown.

(3) In the exercise and discharge of its responsibilities, powers, authorities, duties and functions, a development corporation shall, except where it makes a recommendation to the Minister, be subject in all respects to the control and direction of the Minister.

Reference can be made to other parts of the Act such as Section 7 Responsibilities etc of development corporations.

Council should not give the impression that it is a sort of Claytons consent authority and the Minister should appoint a Commissioner of Inquiry to hear the evidence without further delay.

Yours sincerely,
Doug Lithgow
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