

Parks & Playgrounds Movement Inc

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Press Release

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Honeysuckle Growth Centre & Transparent Governance

Parks and Playgrounds Movement has asked the elected councillors of Newcastle City Council in the new year to examine the governance of the extended Newcastle Honeysuckle Growth Centre.

“The current *Honeysuckle Scheme* made in March 1993 for 45ha of harbour side land is now out of date and inappropriate for the extended Growth Centre,” said Doug Lithgow President of the Parks Movement. “The Scheme is also inconsistent with the Hunter REP and Newcastle LEP and has stopped improvements being made to the Newcastle rail corridor for a decade,” he said.

The Movement has sent a letter to each elected Councillor requesting that the Council resolve to ask the Minister for Planning the Hon Frank Sartor MP to review the “*Order*”, the “*Scheme*” and the “*Secrecy*”. Gazettal of the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy will make this absolutely crucial.

As a statutory planning and development body, Honeysuckle has responsibility under its Act to prepare and implement a “Scheme” (*Part 3 Sections 14, 15, & 17*) for the area shown in the attached Growth Centre Order which embraces most of Newcastle from Newcastle East, Bar Beach, Hamilton South, Broadmeadow, New Lambton, and Mayfield to Carrington.

Newcastle City Council is a democratically elected body that must command the principal responsibility for its Local Government Area and the Honeysuckle Development Corp. ought to be a transparent authority with an exhibited “Scheme” that is available to the general public.

The Honeysuckle Development Corporation is a Ministerial Corporation under the Growth Centres (Development Corporations) Act 1974 (*amended 1992*) and is subject to the control and direction of the Minister (*Part 2 Sec. 5*) and the secrecy provisions of *Part 5 Sec. 33, 34 & 35A*.

‘Part 2 section 4, SS.(3) Growth Centres (Dev. Corp.) Act.

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.'

Honeysuckle Corporation is also responsible under the Growth Centres Act to submit a scheme.

'Part 3 Sec 7 SSs. 1 & 2(a) etc.

to submit to the Minister such proposals with respect to the development and use of land within the growth centre in respect of which it was constituted,etc'.

In the interests of democratic Local Government we ask the elected Newcastle Councillors to:

1. Request that the Growth Centre Order be reviewed,
2. That the Honeysuckle "Scheme" be revised and varied under Part 3 Sec 16 of the Act and
3. That the Honeysuckle Development Corporation open its meetings to the public and make its "Scheme" publicly available.

To view the legislation click this hyperlink, click 'G' under 'Acts in Force' and scroll down to 'Growth Centres': <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/scanact/inforce/NONE/0>.

Or cut and paste the following direct link in your browser:

[http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/summarize/inforce/s/1/?TITLE=%22Growth%20Centres%20\(Development%20Corporations\)%20Act%201974%20No%2049%22&nohits=y](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/summarize/inforce/s/1/?TITLE=%22Growth%20Centres%20(Development%20Corporations)%20Act%201974%20No%2049%22&nohits=y)

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