

Our land and lives have been severely impacted by native vegetation laws apparently on the premise that some of our neighbours MAY have species of endangered plants or previously unheard of or unseen animals such as the “earless dragon, legless lizard or golden sunmoth” – we haven’t seen the sunmoth but it has been reported in other districts. I found this information somewhere in a GAA document which actually said it was a desktop review. To my knowledge no one has been here yet we were assured there were no overlays on our property.

The simple facts are:

-We purchased 10 hectares 46 years ago in a corridor for future development.

In 2004 we found by accident that without consultation or notification we had been changed to Green Wedge zoning . There was no mention then of native vegetation, but a lot of talk about “open air”.

As a consequence we have been in Limbo ever since. 10 hectares is not enough for farming and a property with no water, sewerage, natural gas, made roads etc is not exactly first choice for home buyers - especially as the house is over 100 years old. So our property HAS been devalued . We had assumed that somewhere about now we could have sold to someone who was prepared to wait for another 10 to whatever years until development was near. But Planning Minister Justin Madden’s attack on landowners with his GAIC legislation has scared away any possible speculators.

Not only has there never been any mention of compensation but there HAS been a definite inference that we should stay green for the pleasure of the passing traffic at our expense. That was before the GAIC and new UGB confusion began. Now it is just wholesale confusion. The UGB is 200 meters from us , and a proposed P.S.P has ovals and a future primary school only 400 meters away on a road that is our only means of access.

The Greenvale/Mickleham areas are well catered for in open spaces. The Greenvale Reservoir Woodlands Park and Tullamarine flight path plus the area west of Mickleham Road that was always zoned to remain farming is much more open space than other suburbs of similar size. Considering that Hume Council has always intended for us to be included in Urban development it begs the question..... why has this particular stretch of land along Mickleham Road been held to ransom !!

I have lost count of the number of submissions I have made in the past but I remain ever hopeful that common sense and fair play will prevail. Surely the possibility of such obscure creatures being present is too lame an excuse to be taken seriously. This is not a respectful comment to make about government members and bureaucrats but it comes about from frustration at being fobbed off with spin or simply just ignored.

Thanking you

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