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Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.

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Mr Adrian Robb
Chief Executive Officer
Bayside City Council
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Need to name and rezone three areas of public land abutting Holding Street, Beaumaris

Dear Mr Robb,

I am writing to you, further to our Society's letter of [11 March 2006](#), which first made a proposal about one of the three areas of public open space in Holding Street, Beaumaris, listed at www.bcs.asn.au/fc_unnam.htm#5

The concern about those three areas is part of the Society's [Campaign 2006](#), '*Naming and upgrading zoning of 10 neglected areas of Beaumaris public land*', and was highlighted by reports of the recent fencing off of one of those areas managed by Bayside City Council, at the north corner of Holding Street and Reserve Road, Beaumaris.

Fears for loss of public open space: Fortunately, initial fears that the grassed and treed public open space at that corner, which recently had a mesh fence erected on its perimeter, might be proposed for sale to the adjacent landowners at [28 and 30 Reserve Road](#), were allayed when a Council officer responded that the Council had required a temporary fence be erected to protect the area from having vehicles parked on it during building works on the adjacent house site.

It would have pre-empted those fears if a notice had appeared on that site to inform the public of the purpose of the fence when, or before, it was erected. Such a sale had been proposed by the former Sandringham City Council in the early 1970s for the sum of one dollar, but fortunately the then owner of the lot at 28 Reserve Road had declined to buy it.

Reserve Road example: Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. greatly appreciates the public-spirited approach that Bayside City Council has unanimously implemented for Reserve Road. It is Beaumaris's major internal thoroughfare, where respect for the indigenous treed character of Beaumaris is shown by the good management and zoning of four areas of Council-managed land alongside it, viz. Long Hollow Reserve, Beaumaris Reserve, the 'Concourse Bushland' at 2 Agnes Street, the Concourse Green, and the parking areas to its immediate north and south.

A second significant thoroughfare: BCS Inc. believes another very significant thoroughfare in Beaumaris is the direct route from Reserve Road to Beach Road via Holding Street, Martin Street and Keys Street. Again, fortunately, that route is bordered by five areas of Council-managed public open space, viz. the corner of Holding Street and Reserve Road, the triangular land at the intersection of High Street and Holding Street, the treed space on the south side of Holding Street just east of High Street, the F L Yott Reserve, and the Keys Street Car Park.

The last two of those areas are suitably named and zoned, but the other three are not. It is recognized that the other three are quite small areas of public open space, and it is therefore understandable that they do not yet have the distinction and protection of appropriate naming and zoning. Collectively those three areas are, despite their relatively small size, an important landscape feature in the main direct route from the north of Beaumaris to the Keys Street shopping centre. BCS Inc. proposes naming each of those areas, and rezoning them as follows.

Bush Tramway Corner: A case for a name like this, and for a protective PPRZ zoning, was made in [a more detailed letter](#) soon after our first letter above, but no progress eventuated. The recent local concern over the unannounced appearance of an exclusionary fence alongside construction works on the adjacent freehold lot has renewed concern about the absence of security for this land, and its lack of public recognition. A name like the one suggested would explain to residents, and to those walking past it, the serendipitous reason for the land still surviving as public open space in Melbourne's vast expanse of rectangular freehold lots.

High Street Triangle: This is the largest of the three areas. It is the only one that has not yet been subject to a proposed sale to adjoining landowners. With its grass and mature native trees, it forms a scenic backdrop to the view eastwards along Holding Street from Reserve Road. A PPRZ zoning would be appropriate to safeguard this land against opportunistic proposals.

Holding Street Tree Space: This land, which is additional to the existing nature strip without a paved footpath on the south side of Holding Street between High Street and Dalgetty Road, adjoins three lots. BCS Inc. convinced 7 of Bayside's 9 councillors [in 2004](#) that retention of this treed space, on which grows some Manna Gums and Coastal Tea Trees, provided landscape value that complemented the other five areas referred to above. A PPRZ zoning would be consistent with the PPRZ zoning proposed for the other two areas, and that already applies for the F L Yott Reserve further east along this thoroughfare.

CONCLUSION: Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. asks Bayside City Council to pursue its good intentions set out in the [Bayside Open Space Strategy](#) of April 2015 by extending to Holding Street the public-spirited approach it has unanimously adopted for Reserve Road, and adopting the above recommendations.

The proposed upgrading of the 'Bush Tramway Corner' would also be consistent with the character that the Council has successfully protected for Reserve Road further north.

Yours sincerely,

Gregory Mier
President
Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.

cc Bayside City Council Mayor, Cr Alex del Porto, and fellow councillors
Members of Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.