

Squeeze on Beach Park boundaries

TACKED on to the Land (Miscellaneous Matters) Bill, now in State Parliament, is a clause that will, if not amended, contract the boundaries of the Beach Park Reserve along land at the foot of the Beaumaris cliff.

If passed it will reduce that area of the Permanent Reserve for Public Recreation by some 2000 square metres.

An area just over two normal house blocks would cease to be part of the reserve, which was proclaimed in 1906.

The part of the reserve at risk has been leased to Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron since 1959. It occupies it behind its fence, and part of the squadron's building is on it. The state bureaucracy has proposed this Bill — the squadron does not appear to have been seeking it.

Neither the Government nor the Opposition has initiated this move. The motive seems to be the department's desire to simplify its records. Perhaps it feels that desire because its predecessors allowed the lease, which mostly covered land that had resulted from filling in of the sea, to also intrude into the 2000 square metre part of Beach Park that it now wants to excise.

It is administratively embarrassing to have a lease straddle the boundary between unre-served Crown land and a public service reserve, and even more embarrassing to have any more leases on Beach Park than it needs to.

Nevertheless, the solution to the clumsiness of the past is not to contract the boundaries of Beach Park. It is too greatly

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treasured by the public, and should not shrink.

The Government knows it is under no pressure from the public or the squadron to shrink Beach Park. It should agree to an amendment that would preserve the accepted rights of the squadron, which are not under attack, and preserve the accepted rights of the public, which are under attack.

Such an amendment would delete the Bill's reference to "excision of portion of the public park". Such excisions are notoriously hard to reverse.

The legislation could quite reasonably protect the accepted rights of the club until the lease expires in AD 2002 when the Government at that time could decide what was then wanted.

— **Ken Rendell**, Secretary, Beaumaris Conservation Society.

Destroying an area

AS residents and ratepayers of Black Rock for 38 years, we are appalled at the destruction of this lovely area by developers who buy all the property for sale, demolish the houses and erect huge stone mausoleums, practically from boundary to boundary, or else overdevelop the blocks by the erection of two-storey units, also near the boundary, overlooking their

neighbors, destroying their privacy and reducing their light and sunshine.

We consider such action by developers to be greedy.

As the new Boroondara Council has released new planning controls designed to halt the spread of unwanted high-density developments in Canterbury, Balwyn and Ashburton (see *The Age*, November 11), surely the City of Sandringham can protect Black Rock, Sandringham, Beaumaris and so on by similar controls.

— **J. L. and J. M. Dodson**, Potter St, Black Rock.

'Dismay' at Bayside

IT was with dismay that I heard of the change of name from Warrain to Bayside for our municipality.

The reasons I read had both racist and exclusivist overtones.

From a practical point of view, local people should know that Bayside Secondary College is situated in Williamstown and the Bayside U3A organisation, which covers a wide area, will be meeting in what will be Glen Eira.

The term is vague and can extend around the bay. It lacks imagination, history or any unique meaning for the municipality.

— **Shirley M. Shannon**, Littlewood St, Hampton.

Pleased, says the Mayor

ON behalf of the councillors and staff of the City of Sandringham,

I wish to publicly congratulate the Local Government Board on its Final Report issued last Friday which recommends the creation of a new City of "Bayside", which will include all of the present City of Sandringham.

Council is very pleased that the name Bayside was finally chosen as it was the name suggested in our original submission to the board. I thank most sincerely Mr Graeme Disney, JP, president of Sandringham and District Historical Society, for the countless hours he put in researching possible names for the new city. The society's suggested name of Bayside was chosen from a list of many which could have had relevance for the new municipal area.

On Sunday, councillors and members of our corporate management team took the opportunity to reflect on the board's findings, and to set a course which we believe the commissioners, when appointed by the State Government to administer the new city, should follow.

The discussions were very positive and forward-looking, so we will be circulating a special edition of *Sandringham By The Bay*, asking all people in the whole of the new city for ideas that they may wish to have considered by the new commissioners.

It will be sad for all involved with this city over past years to see it amalgamated with other areas, but as a council we certainly agree that benefits will be obtained through the process, and in about 15 months we look forward to the council handed back to elected councillors.

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