

Submission Number	4
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Sent: Monday, 21 March 2005 10:25 PM
To: Committees
Subject: to Standing Committee on Planning and Environment - Support for DV244



Re Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No 244 - Duffy part Block 2 Section 56 Stromlo Settlement (DV244)

While I and my family are very disappointed that we will not be able to return to the same location where we had happily lived for 13 years, in the interests of being able to return to the Stromlo Forestry Settlement community as soon as possible, I ask that this draft variation be approved as soon as possible.

We lived a number 14 Stromlo Settlement and if the bushfire had not burned our home to the ground, we would have stayed living there for the rest of our lives.

The small community at the Settlement was strongly supportive. People kept an eye on each others children, vehicles and properties. Many of the residents were keen gardeners and most kept their houses in good repair. Many had wanted to purchase their houses, however, as the houses were not on separate titles, this was not possible. The continuation of the strong community spirit initially developed when the Settlement was an isolated forestry settlement was shown when the community strongly agued against the redevelopment of the village as part of the proposed North Duffy development in 1994. The community was successful in preventing the proposed redevelopment.

Since the bushfires the residents have banded together to have their homes rebuilt. They have gained the respect and support of many including the Chief Minister who promised to have us back in our homes as soon as possible.

Our family moved to the Settlement on the grounds of the ill health of several family members. The large house block allowed us to have a large flower and vegetable garden, which we miss greatly and provided us with homegrown food and space to quietly relax and regain our health.

As well as maintaining their houses and their gardens, the residents of the Settlement mowed the grass around their fences and kept their nature strips tidy every summer and autumn to protect the houses from grass fires.

The community had an informal neighbourhood watch system which worked very well, so that people went to work or on holiday, secure that their homes and belongings were safe from thieves or vandals.

As most of the residents are keen to return to their homesites, the community will re-establish itself quickly, particularly, if people can return to the site of their homes prior to the fire. Those tenants whose homes are not being rebuilt, should be given a choice of the new blocks being created in the Settlement, to lessen the distress and heartbreak of not being able to return to back to their old homes and neighbours.

The settlement did not have the problems often found in government housing estates, as the settlement had been built for forestry workers, and still had many residents that were employed in

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