

**MELTON RURAL PROPERTY OWNERS GROUP INCORPORATED**

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Our ref: 140629.1456.B

The Chief Executive Officer  
Mr Kelvin Tori  
Melton City Council  
PO BOX 21  
Melton Victoria 3337



29<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Dear Mr Tori,

**Re: Proposed discontinuance and sale of road**

We strongly object to the proposition of council to discontinue approximately 975 square metres of land forming part of the road reserve opposite 102-106 High Street, Melton Victoria 3337.

The proposed to be discontinuance of the road and sale of the resultant land to the adjacent landowner for \$73,500 is commercially and from a community point of view, totally irresponsible on the part of council. Land of this size, in this location and of this zoning is selling for much higher prices. It is poor management and irresponsible to sell land of this calibre at such a low price.

This is an opportunity for Melton council to raise some additional funds and help alleviate some of the rates burden it has imposed on its residents. Melton council should take this opportunity to do so. The resultant land, if the road is discontinued should be placed on the open market for a substantial period of time in order to allow it to achieve correct market value. It is after all, not up to council, its officers or elected councillors to dictate the cost of land in the municipality. Alternatively it should be sold at the approximate cost of similar land in that location of \$112 per square metre (or \$108,779).

Discontinuance of the road without a planning application/amendment and the sale of the resultant land at the price indicated within the "Notice of proposed discontinuance and sale of road" public notice published in the Star Weekly newspaper on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 would be a grossly artificial sale at an extremely low price for the area of land and as such may be deemed to be an arrangement whereby council, its officers and elected councillors may stand to gain personal benefit or favour.

By accommodation,

Officer Melton Rural Property Owners Group Inc.