



7 June 2010

Ms Greta Bird
Community Centre/Library Reference Group Convenor
Carlton Residents Association

Dear Greta,

I am responding to the Carlton Resident's Association (CRA) flier you have forwarded to me and your email of 30/5/2010 which you copied to the Premier and Ministers Andrews and Holding. I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the University of Melbourne (MU) and the Melbourne City Council (MCC) as the allegations in your letter also concern them. I will also send it to members of the CRA to ensure that they are aware that I have responded to the issues raised in the flier. As the flier resulted in a number of residents contacting me in relation to the erroneous information it contains I shall also be using the text of this letter to respond to them.

I feel it is best to put this response in writing as verbal conversations with you often appear to be misrepresented at later times.

On the front page of the CRA flier and in your email it is stated "that the State Government plans to the sell the Kathleen Syme Centre (KSC) to the University of Melbourne." This was not and is not our plan. To suggest this is misleading and extremely disappointing as I know it causes genuine concern to many members of the community.

As has been repeatedly explained, there is a formed process involving the Valuer General which the Government must work through when considering the sale of land. To state that we plan to sell the land to a specific buyer is wrong and I ask you to cease doing so.

You state that I have "consistently block[ed] the many attempts by both the Melbourne City Council and the CRA to acquire the KSC." Again this is not the case. Until very recently the site has been in use by the Royal Women's Hospital (RWH). Indeed the land title is still held in that name. The site cannot be offered for sale until the land has been transferred to the Department of Treasury and Finance. Again, I ask that you cease making these misleading statements.

You state that the "University of Melbourne now claims your Government has contracted to sell the building along with the remainder of the RWH site." This is not the case. There is no contract in relation to the sale of this site whatsoever.

You state that "local Real Estate Agent, Harcourt, has been retained by Melbourne University to sell the student accommodation." MU have informed me that they have no relationship with Harcourt. It is not clear what student accommodation you are referring to but MU are clear that there is no substance to your allegation.

The *Opportunities for Carlton* project is one of a number of Brumby Government community building initiatives where different departments can work with other levels of Government, residents and businesses to help the community plan and develop the local facilities and services they believe are needed to help bring everyone together. It does not, and will not prevent other facilities being planned and funded in other parts of Carlton. I trust that the wider Carlton community have welcomed the 2009 Government contribution of \$500,000 which enabled this project to continue.

I can assure you 100 per cent as you call on me to do in your letter "that the much cited Government process [for sale of the site will] be followed."

Greta I honestly cannot understand why you seek to mislead and alarm the Carlton community. As previously mentioned, the positive Government investment already underway in Carlton will not rule out further investment in the future.

As local member I wish to state categorically my commitment to working with the Carlton community to ensure that it has all the facilities it needs. I will cooperate with any and all residents and business groups who wish to join me in this work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bronwyn Pike". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

BRONWYN PIKE MP
Member for Melbourne