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Title:

Speech opening "Devonwood" Display Village, Elizabeth East

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING "DEVONWOOD"
DISPLAY VILLAGE, ELIZABETH EAST.

26.8.72

MADAM MAYCRESS, MR. McRAE, MR. SARAH, MR. RAMSAY, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN:

I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO OPEN THIS
EXCITING NEW DISPLAY VILLAGE.

ITS DEVELOPMENT GROWS OUT OF THE DECISION MADE IN 1970 TO
COMBINE HOUSING TRUST AND PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN
AREAS BY RELEASING TRUST BLOCKS TO PRIVATE BUILDERS.

THIS HAS, I BELIEVE, OBVIOUS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND AESTHETIC
MERITS AND COULD BE A FORERUNNER OF SIMILAR PROJECTS ELSE-
WHERE.

2.

INDEED, MIXED DEVELOPMENT OF THIS TYPE IS AN INTEGRAL PART
OF OUR PLANS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HACKNEY NORTH
AREA AND THE TOTAL SUCCESS OF THAT SCHEME WILL BE VERY
MUCH A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.

ACCORDINGLY, I'M DELIGHTED THAT THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE
MASTER BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS
PROJECT HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO DEVOTE SO MUCH CARE AND FORE-
THOUGHT TO ENSURE THAT IT APPEALS TO A WIDE RANGE OF WOULD-BE
HOME BUYERS.

EVIDENCE OF THIS IS THE EFFORT MADE TO ENCOURAGE FUTURE
BUYERS TO MAINTAIN A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ON THE ESTATE WITH
THE DISPLAY HOUSES PRESENTED WITH LAWNS, SHRUBS AND TREES.

THE SAME MOTIVE LED TO THE READY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TRUST AND THE BUILDERS TO REMOVE ONLY THOSE TREES WHICH AFFECTED THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOUSES OR WHICH WERE IN LINE WITH A SERVICE OR SEWER RUN.

QUESTIONS OF URBAN AND SUBURBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ARE VERY MUCH IN THE NEWS AT THE MOMENT AND I SEEM, MYSELF, TO HAVE EXCITED SOME ATTENTION THIS WEEK WITH AN ADDRESS I GAVE IN BRISBANE TO THE AUSTRALIAN PLANNING CONGRESS.

I THINK THIS DEGREE OF PUBLIC AWARENESS IS A WHOLLY GOOD THING - I DON'T THINK THE PUBLIC CAN BE TOO CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED FOR SOUND PLANNING TO GOVERN OUR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT NOR CAN THERE BE TOO MUCH PUBLIC DEBATE OF AND INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT, QUITE LITERALLY, THE DAILY LIVES OF US ALL.

I WOULD REGARD IT AS ONE OF THE HIGH POINTS OF MY PREMIERSHIP IF I CAN DO SOMETHING TO GENERATE THE KIND OF ARTICULATE, INFORMED DEBATE ON URBAN PLANNING IN OUR COMMUNITY WHICH I THINK IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TODAY IF WE ARE TO AVOID A VERY DREARY TOMORROW.

THE FOLK SINGER PETE SEEGER HAD A GREAT SUCCESS SOME YEARS AGO WITH A SONG ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ...

" ... ALL LIVE IN LITTLE BOXES,
 " LITTLE BOXES, MADE OF TICKY-TACKY
 " AND THEY ALL LOOK JUST THE SAME."

AND LITTLE BOXES MADE OF TICKY-TACKY IS WHAT WE MUST AVOID - MUST SHUN.

NOW IN TALKING ABOUT WHAT I SEE AS THE PERILS OF ENDLESSLY SPRAWLING SUBURBIA WITH ITS GREAT TOLL IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS, I AM NOT - EMPHATICALLY NOT - SAYING THAT ALL SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT IS, IPSO FACTO, A BAD THING.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT VERY MANY PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE IN A SUBURB, IN TOO MANY CASES IT'S AN ASPIRATION THAT WILL TAKE THEM YEARS TO FULFIL AND THEN MANY MORE YEARS TO DISCHARGE.

BUT WE MUST, I THINK, GET AWAY FROM THE NOTION THAT IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE AND THAT - WITHIN THIS PARTICULAR STYLE OF LIVING - ONE CAN LIVE ONLY IN A PARTICULAR TYPE OF DWELLING, BUNGALO-ED BLISS ONLY marginally different FROM THE NEIGHBOURS.

IF I CAN REPEAT SOMETHING I SAID IN BRISBANE LAST MONDAY:

"I SIMPLY BELIEVE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A MUCH GREATER VARIETY OF LIVING STYLES AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE ..."

THAT'S IT IN ESSENCE.

I THINK SOUTH AUSTRALIANS, JUST AS VICTORIANS, NEW SOUTH WELSHMEN, AND QUEENSLANDERS, DESERVE A BROADER RANGE OF OPTIONS THAN THOSE GENERALLY AVAILABLE TO THEM AND THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE WHAT PROVISION THEY CAN TO ENSURE THAT THOSE OPTIONS ARE TO HAND.

IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE - WITHIN A QUITE LIMITED INCOME - TO CHOOSE TO LIVE IN A CITY, IN ONE OF A NUMBER OF QUITE DIFFERENT SUBURBS OR IN A THRIVING, PROVINCIAL CENTRE.

THE POLICIES WE HAVE EMBARKED ON SINCE TAKING OFFICE THIS TIME IN SUCH SPECIFIC AREAS AS THE HACKNEY SCHEME, OUR PROPOSALS FOR CONTROL OF ADELAIDE CITY DEVELOPMENT AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MURRAY NEW TOWN ARE GEARED TOWARDS OBTAINING JUST THAT.

I'M NOT SAYING WE CAN DO IT ALL. THE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS ON STATE GOVERNMENTS IN OUR FEDERATION MEAN THAT WE CAN HAVE ONLY A LIMITED EFFECT.

BUT WE CAN DO SOMETHING .. BY EXAMPLE AND BY EXHORTATION AND I THINK WE'D BE NEGLECTING OUR DUTY IF WE DID NOT DO ALL THAT WE CAN WITHIN THE GIVEN LIMITATIONS.

IT MAY SOUND SOMEWHAT PARADOXICAL TO TALK ABOUT PLANNING IN ONE BREATH AND THE MAXIMUM OF OPTIONS IN ANOTHER. BUT REALLY THERE IS NO CONFLICT.

WE MUST, I BELIEVE, HAVE A CLEAR VIEW OF OUR GOALS - PROPERLY DISCUSSED, ARGUED AND AGREED BEFORE THE DECISIONS ARE TAKEN - AND ADEQUATE GUIDELINES AND CONTROLS TO ENSURE THAT SUCH GOALS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK WE MUST PROVIDE THE BROADEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHERE AND HOW THEY WANT TO LIVE.

NOW, SIR, PLAINLY THIS PROVIDES SCOPE AND CHALLENGES TO BOTH GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

I'M SURE I'M NOT BEING IDEALISTIC, OR EVEN PARTICULARLY VISIONARY, WHEN I SAY IT CAN BE DONE, LITERALLY, IN BRICKS AND MORTAR.

THIS PROJECT TODAY SHOWS THAT THE TWO SECTORS CAN COMBINE TO PROVIDE A CHOICE OF ATTRACTIVE LIVING CONDITIONS.

IT IS, THEREFORE, WITH VERY MUCH PLEASURE THAT I NOW DECLARE THE DEVONWOOD DISPLAY VILLAGE OFFICIALLY OPEN.

THANK YOU.