

# Eastlakes residents press for parkland

Unit residents at Eastlakes held a meeting yesterday to protest against further building on an area they say was promised as parkland.

They say 3½ acres of flat land, on Evans Street, was promised as parkland by the owners, Parkes Developments Pty Ltd, when the units were being sold.

Residents of units facing

the area reportedly paid a higher price.

The meeting was to have been held at the building site, on grassland next to the Eastlakes shopping centre. Just before a storm broke yesterday morning the residents moved into the shopping centre, holding wind-torn protest placards in different languages.

They were supported by their local, State and Federal representatives, Al-

derman J. Slattery of Botany Council, Mr T. J. Cahill (Lab, Cooks River) and Mr L. F. Bowen (Lab, Kingsford-Smith).

The residents have until next Friday to persuade the Minister for Local Government, Mr Morton, to prevent building proceeding.

Construction on the site will not take place until then.

Alderman Slattery said the only recreation places in the development area, which was formerly Rosebery racecourse, were parks "so small they hardly matter."

"The kids can't play ball without breaking windows on the adjoining houses," he said.

Mr P. Vogel, one of the residents, said the brick units in the development housed about 1,200 families "and plenty of children."

He said that, when he bought his unit six years ago, he had paid \$1,500 more for the privilege of facing the promised park.

The salesman had told him a swimming pool would be built in the future, as well as playing areas.

Residents who said salesmen for the developers had given them similar promises signed statutory declarations to this effect after the meeting.

When the proceedings

had been translated for non-English-speaking residents, the meeting decided to send a deputation to the minister which would be arranged by Mr Cahill.

Later, the managing director of Parkes Developments, Mr R. Ryko, said the land next to the shopping centre had never been offered as a park because parks had to be dedicated to the public before, and not after, subdivision.

Mr Ryko said the company had been given permission to subdivide after it dedicated 3.3 acres throughout the area for parkland.

"I don't classify that as being tiny," he said.

"They were distributed over the estate so that all families could benefit."

Mr Ryko said his company had offered to build a swimming pool, but the council had turned the offer down because maintenance costs would be too high.

Parkes Developments was only responsible for the houses of 700 families. The other 500 were housed by the Housing Commission.

"I think it is a miscarriage of justice for a pressure group to think that a private enterprise would make land available for parks without thought of how to compensate," he said.

"The land is probably worth \$600,000."