

# Child's plea — for trees and a park

By JAMES CUNNINGHAM

Fair-haired Michael Vogel is eight and he likes to play cricket on an open grassy space opposite his home in Eastlakes, Sydney.

But if the State Minister for Local Government, Mr Morton, decides that building should be permitted on the 3½-acre open space, Michael's cricketing days could end abruptly.

His mother, 32-year-old Greek-born Mrs Gina



Mr Morton

Vogel, said last night: "If they build on this land we will go back to Europe. We will have finished with Australia."

Mr T. J. Cahill, State Labor member for Cook's River, has sent a telegram to Mr Morton asking him to receive a deputation of Eastlakes home-unit dwellers opposed to development of the land.

Mr Cahill said: "We want him to call on Botany Council and the owners of the land, Parkes Developments Pty Ltd, to show cause why a decision allowing this land to be developed should not be rescinded.

"I am hopeful he will see us."

The row between the Eastlakes residents, who live in units built by Parkes Developments, and the company over the development of the land blew up after building material was dumped on it and preparations for building begun.

The residents — mostly migrants from Europe — say that when they moved into their units they were promised that the land, bordering the Lakes shopping centre, would be retained as a park.

The company denies such a promise was given.

Mrs Vogel, who lives in Hellas Court, Longworth Avenue, said: "I have been 12 years in Australia but I would prefer to go back to Greece if this company is

permitted to put up another block of units facing us.

"They would cut out the sun. It would be like living in a jail."

Mrs Endela Koutsukos, who also lives in Hellen Court, said: "We bought our unit here — and paid extra for it — because we were told that we would be facing an open space where the children could play.

"We have been happy here until now but we won't stay in Australia if this land is allowed to go. They promised us trees and a park."

Mrs Vogel added: "We would be prepared to pay extra rates if we could keep this open space.

"We came here so that our children could have a better and healthier life."

Sydney-born Michael swung his bat and said: "It's a beautiful place for cricket. I like cricket."