

PROTEST AT HOME UNIT PLAN

Residents seek union black ban

A group of Eastlakes residents decided at a public meeting yesterday to seek a Builders Labourers' Federation black ban on any additional home unit development in their area.

The residents oppose a unanimous decision by Botany Municipal Council on February 14 to approve a plan by Parkes Developments Pty Ltd for four eight-storey home unit blocks in Eastlakes in return for establishing a park in a vacant three-acre lot owned at present by the company.

The proposal came after recent meetings between the company, Botany Council and the Minister for Local Government, Sir Charles Cutler.

Parkes had originally

intended to develop the vacant lot, which is between Evans and Barber Avenues, just west of the Eastlakes shopping centre.

In December, 1971, however, after a request from Eastlakes residents, the Builders Labourers' Federation placed a black ban on construction in the lot.

The residents decided yesterday to reject the plan by Parkes Developments and to seek an enlargement of the union's black ban to cover any home unit development in the Eastlakes area.

Mr M. Stratiotis, president of the Lakes Progress Association, a group of about 80 Eastlakes residents, said after the meeting that a federation official had assured him the enlarged black ban would be approved.

The plan calls for four home unit blocks, totalling

176 units, to be constructed in the present car park area of the Eastlakes shopping centre.

"There isn't a person here today who doesn't want that park," said Miss Margaret Barry, one of about 10 speakers at the meeting, which was held in the vacant lot and attended by about 150 people.

"But the price is too high."

She said additional home unit development in Eastlakes would complicate existing traffic and parking problems as well as add "further stress, strain and frustration" to local residents.

"There are 6,200 people already here in Eastlakes on 56 acres — where the hell are we putting the people?"

Another speaker said the park should be built "with no strings attached."

Botany Council Alder-

man Mrs M. Kelly urged the residents to approve the plan.

"It's the best deal we can get," she said.

The vacant lot, worth \$600,000, along with \$5,000 Parkes Developments had promised to establish a park, was fair compensation for additional development in the area, she said.

"It's all lost now," she said after the meeting. "And there will be development here on this vacant lot some day."

But Mr Stratiotis was confident there would be no more home unit development in Eastlakes.

He said a request would be made to Botany Council to purchase the vacant lot from Parkes Developments to establish a municipal park.



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