

Community sold out by politicians again

THE growing furore over the proposed new suburb of East O'Malley is understandable.

The area has been identified as an "Endangered Yellow Box and Red Gum Ecological Community" under Section 21 of the Nature Conservation Act.

More than 20 environmental groups have campaigned hard to save the area from needless destruction, and at a public meeting on site last year with Conservationist Peter

Garrett, the now Minister for Planning and Land Management, Simon Corbell, was also in attendance providing assurance the development would not proceed if he were re-elected. We now find we were "sold out" yet again by a politician.

East O'Malley would have to be one of the most unsuitable building sites in Canberra.

I hope PALM intends to mention to prospective land purchasers that East O'Malley was a government dump site for many years. It's anyone's guess what "treasures" residents will unearth in their backyards or under their dwellings.

The proposed site is all so very steep and weeps large amounts of ground water all year round into the creek below, so future inhabitants should look forward to expensive repair bills from cracking foundations and walls after a few years.

But it's not all bad news! Belconnen garbage tip is being closed and the old Mt Mugga Mugga quarry is currently being surveyed to become a tip site, once all the land has been sold off of course. Pretty convenient — walking distance to the tip face! I wonder how many other up-market developments will be able to make this claim?

W.RAYMONT

Letters to the Editor

Convener
Chifley Pearce Urban
Landcare Group

Not welcome

MY sister is a 24-year-old intellectually disabled young adult.

She has poor communication skills, but is a very friendly and attractive young girl with exceptional physical ability. Through my mother's tireless efforts, she has regularly participated in many physical activities, including bike riding, horse riding, swimming, aqua aerobics, rock climbing and walking.

She has been a financial member of an independent walking group for almost two years, participating in 23 walks over the year accompanied by support workers from various service providers. On June 21, my sister and a support worker arrived at a scheduled walk meeting place only to be refused participation by the coordinator.

The stated reason was that she couldn't keep up. More than that, her membership renewal was also refused. The coordinator.

nator stated that she was no longer welcome in the group and that this decision had been discussed with the president of the group and all concerned.

I am appalled by the total ignorance and disrespect from an organisation, which openly approves such behaviour.

This is simply unacceptable. The recent Gallop Report called for reforms designed to improve access for people with disabilities to all aspects of community life, improved services and sufficiently trained staff.

The desperate need for that report's recommendations to be taken up across the whole community has been highlighted by this walking group's actions.

Name and address supplied.

Only hope

DON Allan hit the nail on the head with his column of June 25 "More fear than war against terrorism".

Of course terrorism such as September 11

needs to be opposed, but it won't be done by destroying democratic processes and accusing coun-

tries of being part of the "Axis of Evil".

Nor will it be overcome by the US acting as the bully of the world and our government dragging along on their coat tails.

It is even more important now to protect our democratic rights and to work towards building a more just and equitable world.

A major step towards this would be to recognise the gross injustice of the occupation of Palestinian Territories and for Australia to call, in the UN and elsewhere, for an immediate end to the Israeli occupation and an end to the settlements in Palestine.

This will be the best hope for ending the bombings in Israel which are a result of the desperate situation of apartheid, curfews and killings which the Palestinians are being subjected to.

KATHRYN KELLY
Chifley

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