
Proposals to protect Hills lifestyle

The Stoneville Progress Association is moving closer to protecting the Hills lifestyle after developing proposals to submit to the Mundaring Shire Council.

Last month, the *Echo* reported that the SPA wanted legislation to be formulated for the legal protection of the Hills as an area of special significance.

This action has already been taken in South Australia for the Adelaide Hills through the Hills Face Zone Plan as a protection against unco-ordinated and inappropriate development.

At SPA's Tuesday night meeting, the association modified its proposals to submit to council, which included the formulation of legislation to afford legal protection of the Hills, by the Planning and Infrastructure Minister, Alan-

nah MacTiernan, and the wider community.

The proposals also included developments being made "village style" with a limited number of blocks starting at a minimum of half an acre and increasing in size up to 5 acres to support the Hills lifestyle.

They also seek changes in current planning legislation to ensure that all development proposals commence no later than two years from the date the local authority grants planning approval.

According to the association, this proposal – where blocks would be offered for sale in the first stage of development – would ensure the current land shortages would come to an end.

SPA Chairman, Mike Davies, said the proposal would also avoid developments, like those planned

for Stoneville and Parkerville, where a plan that seemed fine 10 years ago, was now inappropriate but still capable of being implemented.

Mr Davies also said the proposals aimed to stop developers from manip-

ulating land values and diffusing protest.

"If protest occurs, it's easy to put the whole project on the back burner for two or three years while land values rise, and when it re-emerges the desire to protest about it has been

diluted," he said. Mr Davies was due to meet with Premier, Alan Carpenter, on Thursday after being nominated by Swan Hills MLA, Jaye Radisich, to discuss the issues with other community opinion leaders.
