

**Submission  
No 27**

**INQUIRY INTO SOCIAL, PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING**

**Name:** Mrs Victoria Newstead

**Date received:** 19/02/2014

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**Mrs Victoria Newstead**

**19th February 2014**

**The Director Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable  
Housing  
NSW Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000**

**RE:- Submission into enquiry into public housing.**

In March 2012 the world in Ivanhoe Estate changed forever. An announcement made on channel 9 about the development of our estate. How are people meant to react when they hear helicopters flying over and then our homes on TV?

A community reference group (CRG) was set up to supposedly give information and calm Ivanhoe down. Information has been coming but not the information that the community and waiting to find out. Why announce something on public TV and then leave it all this time in the hope people may forget. Here we are in 2014 going into the 3<sup>rd</sup> year this March of not really knowing what is happening to our homes our community and our lives.

There was even more disappointment when the “Herring Road Urban Activation Precinct” (UAP) was announced. Now it appeared too many that decisions are going to be made which will affect the whole community in this district, with disregard to a community that is working extremely well and really a jewel to public housing.

The Ivanhoe Estate tenant group made themselves available to attend the meetings and get very involved in the UAP and so called consultation to the

community; I personally informed people that I may be a bit late due to work commitments. On turning up to this meeting it became very obvious to me and a few others that in fact the consolation process was actually more a "this is what we feel is best", people were being shown amazing plans, involving all aspects of development, Then been asked question and point of view in a manner that was leading people to say what the UAP would like people to say. Perhaps the best thing showing this was when we were shown how Ivanhoe Estate would have roads build to relieve the congestion that happens in Herring Road. These new roads looked and sounded like a great solution and members were seriously been pushed into believing that this would be a great solution to a problem. However when I actually said where do these cars now end up we were told Waterloo Rd. There was a flaw in this answer which I made a point off, now the solution is to turn left into Waterloo Rd drive up to lights and then have to turn left onto Herring road. Surely not a practical solution when the increased amount of population would still end up on Herring Rd, with a greater grid log in Peak hour periods.

The community Of Ivanhoe Estate has been one that has for many years been happy and consolidated with unbelievable community spirit. However now our community is unsure of what is happening to them, People approach us telling us that people have been asked to relocate with offers of another place now, when questions are asked to CRG this is denied. Now who do we believe? We understand that some people have been asked to be moved and are on waiting lists but others it appears are not. The question that we cannot seem to answer is who is telling us the truth!

We have over this whole process been told that if relocation is to happen that we will be invited to come back to Ivanhoe if people wish to. We have been told that we will be offered alternative housing, some tenants may choose to be relocated closer to other area but many wish to remain in the Ivanhoe Community. Sadly many would like to stay in the Ryde Community

where our lives are based, where our friends live, where our work is, where our community activities are, where we are happy.

When we ask Finance and services where we will all be going there are no answers!

When we ask when this may happen we are told possibly quite a few years!

When we ask when will the UAP be put on display we were told, July 2012 then every monthly meeting we were told it is still delayed and should happen soon, Here we are February 2014 and still all be have been told is possible April 2014 , 9 months after the so called consultation actually happened. We still wait for it all to be put to the greater public.

Sadly parking in Ivanhoe has now become almost ridiculous, the developers from Herring Road that have already started development have not just parked in the 2 hr parking areas making it difficult for residents to park, They are also parking in tenant private parking area and simply think it is there right to do so. When we have approached the Ryde council who have actually been very helpful about possible resident parking only with visitor parking, we are told that it is a housing problem. When housing are asked they say it is a Ryde council problem, , The development in the area is soon to become even bigger , creating even more parking problem for the greater community. It is now not only difficult to park but becoming dangerous for the tenants who try and cross the road, we have had workers abuse tenants and over all a very uncomfortable atmosphere. Who will help us?

What else are we meant to do?

Sadly on 18 February the parking ranger arrived in the street and was harassed by the working from the TOGA development site, Very sad that this has happened, We are told that the housing estate is near a railway and public transport yet the worker on site seem to feel that they can take over the estate, Maybe we will sadly just have to wait until a major accident

happens or someone is hit and killed. Not an outcome that I would wish on anyone.

This community is made up of elderly, Families, refugees, Culturally diverse groups, Intellectually disabled, people with psychological problems, We have youth that are attending local schools and doing very well, They are now young leaders in a great community, So obviously this community is working very well and should be held up as an example on how well public housing can work. How community rooms, open space, The Ivanhoe Estate Tenant Group and the Salvation Army have contributed to a community minded, friendly and socially accept community. People all living together in harmony.

The reality is that people reading this submission do not know what tomorrow may bring, People loose business's, get ill and anyone of you may end up on a waiting list for public housing, No one knows what tomorrow may bring. No one can see around the corners, People have a right to good housing, education, and medical help no matter what they earn. It is not a given right only to higher incomes but to everyone in our wonderful country.

Please also find speeches that have been presented to council, and to The Ivanhoe Taskforce,

Vicki Newstead CDAA

Ivanhoe Estate Tenant Group President

Macquarie Park