

Box 3927, G.P.O.,
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

8th February, 1961

Mr. George Clarke,
Clarke, Gazzard & Yeomans,
90 New South Head Road,
EDGECLIFF. N.S.W.

Dear *George*.

I have read your article in "The Australian Quarterly" and I must say that it would be hard to find a more balanced account of the affair of the Green Belt.

I am grateful that you have been scrupulously fair, and indeed generous, to the County Council. I would have written the eighth of your sub-paragraphs on page 35 in much more detail. In fact, as far as the Advisory Committee is concerned I have already done it and although my account was adopted by the Council and sent to the Under Secretary and the Minister, it has never been published. I often wonder whether the "independent experts" who attended the Advisory Committee's "confidential sessions" really knew what was going on.

I would have appreciated your article more if you had given the County Council, and not unnamed authorities, the credit for introducing the "two new concepts into the detail planning of the new areas" on page 37. This was introduced as part of a move to counter the decision on the Green Belt by increasing the responsibilities of the developer to such an extent that he would think twice about promiscuous subdivision. It has been said that Mr. Hills' Green Belt decision at least gave the County Council the opportunity to do these things. We were in fact intending in any case to use similar measures on a large scale in Campbelltown and also to a limited extent in the second stage areas of the County Council's 1959 Green Belt revision.

Of course, looking back over the last ten years one can see that the fault was as much ours as anyone else's in the sad story of the Green Belt but I doubt whether we could have done it any other way on the experience, or lack of experience, that we had. What we have achieved, however, is that there is still a Green Belt and a good deal more understanding, and that the Minister, who did not care tuppence about it when he took office (and who probably still doesn't), has become quite vehement in his defence of the line he has established. Long may he reign!

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Red Fraser
(R. D. L. FRASER)