**To the La Trobe University Council**

**Introduction**

For decades, the Strathallan golf course has served the ecology and the community. It has provided a buffer between the wildlife reserve and residences and a sanctuary for native flora and fauna. It has served as an important amenity, providing recreational facilities and low-cost golf together with the benefits of social interaction. As such, it has fulfilled its zoning as ‘Public Park-Recreation’.

In September 1996, La Trobe University acquired the land (Part B of Plan Subdivision 328980H, Certificate of Title Volume 10232 Folio 736) from the Urban Land Authority for $580,000 on the understanding that the land would remain as public open space.

La Trobe has refused to continue its lease with the Strathallan Golf Club. Given that La Trobe has remained silent on its intentions with this land, the community is concerned that La Trobe may seek to rezone the land for development. This would be contrary to the understanding upon which the land was transferred to the University. If carried out, it would remove the substantial benefits that the land provides to the ecology and the community.

**Petition**

**Therefore, we the undersigned, petition the Latrobe University Council to preserve and maintain the Strathallan land (Part B of Plan Subdivision 328980H, Certificate of Title Volume 10232 Folio 736) as public open space, protect its current usage and to reject any proposals to rezone and develop the land.**

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