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## SUBMISSION

### Plans to increase VCAT fees

EEG opposes plans to take a backward step in this state's justice system by increasing VCAT fees beyond most people's means and thereby reduce access to justice. This is not why VCAT was established.

The so called reform appears to be a deliberate tactic to ensure that developers, corporations and government agencies can operate with even less accountability, scrutiny or adherence to the law.

Since the government and developers would prefer not to be challenged in court and through the Tribunal system, this appears to be a flagrant attempt to cut out the average citizen and small community group from challenging decisions that have serious social and environmental impacts.

The public right and Victoria's democracy is fast being done-over in so many areas now. This proposed fee hike is simply ensuring that such corruption and decisions that favour development over public values can go ahead unfettered.

This planned change can also be seen to be the beginning of doing away with VCAT, as fewer and fewer people would use it. To ask the public to comment on this is akin to asking for public comment on whether they would like to live in a democracy or under a totalitarian regime. This proposal is absurd!

We are fast losing any faith in the system of public consultation. We have in fact lost all faith in the way this government is abusing processes that were once respected. It is clearly a means to justify the Baillieu government's exploitative agenda to up the profits of the big end of town and ensure ongoing party donations.

No we are not conspiracy theorists. This is crystal clear. Due to this, we are only submitting one page on this topic as we suspect the government has already made a decision and this consultation process is merely a formality to legitimise the decision.

We have no grievance against VCAT, only with governments which are shameless in their governing for those who wish to exploit the state, its environment and its citizens.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Redwood', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jill Redwood  
Coordinator