

A CHARTER FOR A CENTRAL REGION

A Principled Community View

The authors say that there is nothing startlingly new in the Charter, nor is its intention to outline their own personal position.

Rather it is an attempt to gather together a decade or so of some of the best community attitudes to some inner area problems and their solutions, mostly evolved by community groups, but, to some extent, also contributed by earnest social and physical planners responsible for planning strategies.

Some background to the authors' credentials can be found in reference (23), but, so far as their relevant inner area experience goes, it has been mainly in the area of the City of Melbourne. It embraces involvement in public participation in various community groups in the preparation of the two Strategy Plans in 1973 and 1984/85, and some of the conflicts and consultations that arose over that span of years.

The authors, in formulating a set of values and planning devices likely to be useful to the much extended areas of the whole region may well have been unaware of experiences of community groups and local Councils in other inner municipal areas that are as good - or better - than those that have occurred in Melbourne.

If so, they should be "woven" into the fabric of the Charter as at present formulated. The focus on policy goals as distinct from the current round of administrative reforms is quite deliberate. The Charter is offered in the hope that it will assist community groups to avoid being diverted for too long, and never exclusively, with administrative restructuring.

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