

MORE PARK LAND

Councils Will Support

SMALL AREAS IN SOUTH

Councils in the southern suburbs probably will be unanimous in their support of the Moorabbin Council's decision to call a municipal conference to consider the acquisition of more land for parks and sports grounds.

A suggestion by Moorabbin councillors that the Government be asked to contribute toward the cost of buying necessary land was received favourably by members of south suburban councils who said that councils were not able to bear the heavy capital cost of land.

The president of the Victorian Playgrounds Association (Sir James Barrett) said yesterday that although it was claimed that Melbourne was a garden city, London had twice the area of park lands within 10 miles of its General Post-office. Only inner Melbourne within three miles of the GPO was well served with parks because of the foresight of Hovell in planning the parks in 1887. Since then however, 860 acres about one-third of the land had been alternated for purposes such as sites for schools.

Government assistance either by way of loans or subsidies to municipalities on a £1 for £1 basis was imperative if suitable recreation areas were to be reserved, said the Mayor of Sandringham, Councillor R J Sillitoe, yesterday. His council would co-operate with Moorabbin in calling the proposed conference.

The Town Planning Commission recommended some years ago that five acres of playgrounds sports grounds, and public parks should be reserved for each 1,000 of potential population, and deplored the fact that particularly in the outer suburbs where rapid settlement was likely, inadequate provision had been made.

Statistics relating to the southern suburbs likely to be represented at the Moorabbin conference are-

BRIGHTON - Area 3,158 acres 30,000 population (ultimate population likely to be 87 000) 436 acres of park land needed. At present there are 220 acres.

MORDIALLOC - Area 2,875 --acres population about 13,000, 376 acres needed for probable ultimate population of 75,000. At present there are only 100 acres Including 73 acres of foreshore reserve.

MOORABBIN - Area 13 200 acres population about 17 000, 1,218 acres needed for probable ultimate population of 300 000. At present there are 135 acres of park land.

PRAHRAN - Area 2,187 acres population about 5,3000, 298 acres needed for the probable ultimate population of 59,000. Present parks only 100 acres in area

SANDRINGHAM - area 1476 acres with 196 acres of parks including 168 acres of foreshore reserves. For probable ultimate population of 89,000, 447 acre of park land needed.