

Squatter squalor

By Narelle Wilson

GREATER Dandenong Council will decide the future of the former Dandenong stockyards site on Cheltenham Road at its council meeting tonight (Monday).

Since the closure of the stockyards in December 1988, the site has been cleared of most buildings. However, the old office is now home to squatters.

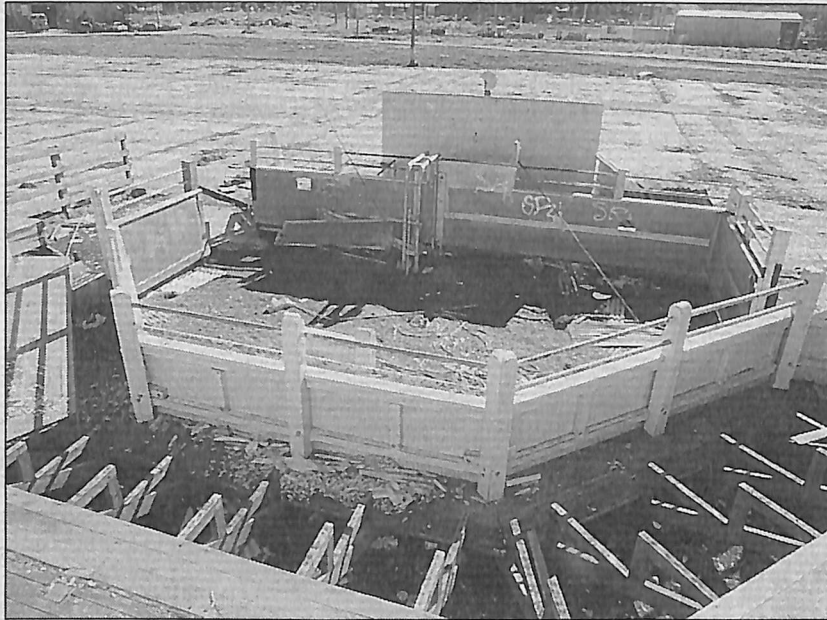
The Mayor of Dandenong, Councillor Angela Long, said she was unaware that homeless people were using the derelict buildings but said the sale of the site would end the problem.

"Once the sale ring is down and the site is completely cleared, the squatters will have to move on," she said.

Cr Long said she would notify the appropriate officers and ask for a report.

Councillors and residents have described the stockyards as an eyesore but Cr Long said a new development there would inject new life into the city.

"This is an exciting time for our city. We envisage



Stockyard eyesore: plans are in place to sell off the former Dandenong stockyards site, now occupied by squatters.

Picture: Robert Carew

the potential sale of the site as an opportunity to cement our status as Melbourne's second city," she said.

Cr Long said the council had appointed real estate agents C. B. Richard Ellis to handle the site.

"A close monitor of all

submissions will determine the best possible outcome for our residents and the future of the city," she said.

If the site is sold, the substantial revenue to the council has already been earmarked for the refurbishing of Dandenong Town Hall.

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The site is a far cry from its busy days. The roofless shed is full of old couches, empty tins of cat food, empty aerosol tins, old clothes and used syringes.