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Group wins creek battle

By TIM WOOD

THE Blackburn Creek Conservation Group has won a two year battle to save creek land threatened by residential development.

The land will continue to be used as a recreation area.

The issue was resolved last week when the Board of Works and Nunawading Council reached agreement over the price of the land.

The 24 ha area, between Main St. and Pakenham St., was sold by the MMBW to Nunawading Council for \$271,500.

It sold for nearly half the price the MMBW sought two years ago from the Nunawading Council.

The Board offered it for more than \$500,000, based on the land's residential potential.

But the council declined.

The options left to the MMBW were to rezone the land as residential, or sell it to adjoining owners.

It was then Blackburn Creek Conservation Group stepped in to try and save the area for recreational parkland.

Demonstrations were held and the breakthrough came when, Margaret Ray, MLA, (Box Hill), on behalf of the group,

asked State Planning Minister, Mr Walker, to make the valuation of the land on a parkland basis rather than on a residential value.

"Following discussions between the Minister and the Board of Works it was agreed to drop the valuation of the land to one reflecting cost to the Board", Mrs Ray said this week.

Group chairman, Graham Burgess, this week welcomed the council's unanimous decision to acquire the land as public open space.

"We are most delighted by the outcome as it will secure the land for future generations," he said.