

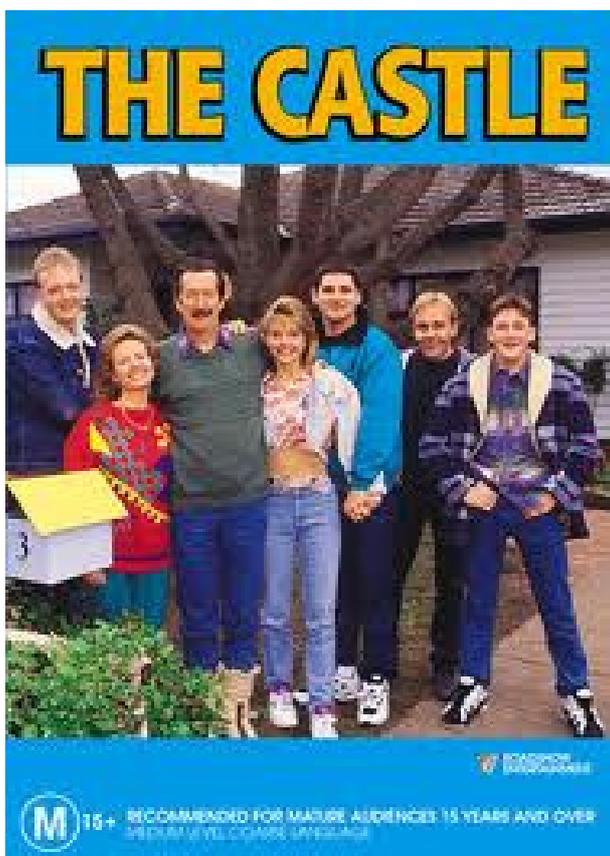
LEX LOCI'S TRAVELS

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An ad-hoc one-pager from The Public Land Consultancy

Kerrigan's Castle

It's a really low-budget movie that can't afford studio-built sets. For the centerpiece of his 1997 comedy 'The Castle' producer Rob Sitch had to go out and borrow a real house. He found it in Dagonet Street Strathmore, slap alongside Essendon Airport.



No 3 Dagonet Street, Strathmore
Facing demolition?
Perhaps the National Trust will save it
(click [here](#) for the story).

The location was pivotal to the plot. Airports are run by federal agencies, under federal law. Darryl Kerrigan's battles took him (and us, the viewers) into the combat zone of compulsory acquisition. And, for the plotline to get us to Canberra and the High Court, it was essential for the agency seeking to acquire the property to be federal.

If Kerrigan's castle had been threatened by some road widening, or port expansion, or bike-path along the Yarra, his adversary would have been a State and not a Commonwealth entity. And the Constitutional requirement for acquisitions to be 'on just terms' is simply not binding on the States, or municipalities.

There might still have been a movie, but it would have been a different movie. In fact, come to think of it, there are some great place-stories around, just waiting to be converted into movie scripts.

Not sure that they would all be comedies...

See you there! Lex Loci

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