

NEWS

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Pole tax on family

A RED-faced family have become the laughing stock of neighbours after a planning bungle left them with a light post smack bang in front of their garage.

Mernda homeowners Roger and Simone Evans say the oversight is no joke and are calling on developer Stockland and Whittlesea Council to help them move it.

But the council has told Mr Evans it will cost him \$3500 to have it moved — money they do not have.

The family of six have resorted to parking on the street or driving across their nature strip to the garage.

The couple developed plans for their home two years ago, which included flipping the house so the garage was on the opposite side from its original position.

When they got their first

Suzanne Robson

look at slabs at their dream home, they made the shock discovery their garage would face a light pole.

Mr Evans said he was amazed neither the builder nor Stockland, which approved the plans, notified them the pole would line up with the garage.

“My wife has been in tears about it. We built a house and pretty much drained ourselves of any funds,” Mr Evans said.

“Any notification would have saved all the heartache and inconvenience that we have at the moment.”

A spokesman for Stockland said the company had fulfilled its contractual obligations and would work with the Evans family and the council to reach a solution.

Annoyed: Simone Evans outside her Mernda home. Picture: ADAM ELWOOD