



Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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GRAZING LICENCE PHASE OUT FOR WATER FRONTAGE ON CROWN LAND IN THE YELLINGBO CONSERVATION AREA

Dear Landowner,

In 2013 the Victorian Environment Assessment Council's (VEAC) Yellingbo Investigation made a series of recommendations focussing on the biodiversity and ecological values in the area. As part of these recommendations in VEAC's 2013 Final Report (which is supported by Government) grazing licences are to be phased out to create the Yellingbo Conservation Area.

The conservation area will be created over all Crown land, including Crown land water frontages, within the area coloured yellow on the Yellingbo Investigation Area map attached.

Your licence was scheduled to expire on 30 June, 2016, however in order to help you manage the transition process, **a three month grace period is available**. This means that you will have until September 30, 2016 to remove any remaining stock and if required, apply for funding to assist with fencing. You can find further information on funding below. **In order to take up the grace period offer, please send confirmation to property.portphillip@delwp.vic.gov.au by 22 July, 2016.**

Ultimately, the Crown land waterway frontage adjoining your property will become part of the Yellingbo Conservation Area. Please note the 'investigation area' on the enclosed map which denotes the area. This land will eventually be transferred to Parks Victoria and managed as a conservation reserve. You will soon receive details of a community drop-in session where you can meet with staff to discuss the future management of the Yellingbo Conservation Area.

The Yellingbo Conservation Area will help protect significant biodiversity and ecological values through the rehabilitation of stream frontages and the creation of the vital habitat links. It is also aimed at protecting water quality

Assistance for fencing and off-stream stock watering:

To assist with your transition, funding for fencing and off stream stock watering is available to eligible landowners from the **Melbourne Water** Stream Frontage Management Program. Funding for this program is limited, and will be prioritised to landowners who apply early, and those currently holding licences to occupy the Crown land. To find out more about the program, you can visit www.melbournewater.com.au/getinvolved/applyforfunding/; or contact Melbourne Water on 131 722; or email Edwina Manifold edwina.manifold@melbournewater.com.au.

Assistance regarding the phase out of your licence:

If there is no grazing occurring on your adjoining land then there may not be a requirement to construct a fence once your licence ceases. My staff at the **Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)** are happy to assist you by discussing your individual situation. If you have any queries regarding

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this matter or the cessation of your licence, please contact Will Hoban on 9210 9414 (william.hoban@delwp.vic.gov.au) or Cindy Wood on 9210 9425 (Monday to Wednesday) (cindy.wood@delwp.vic.gov.au).

Assistance regarding future management of the Crown land:

If you have any queries regarding the future management of the conservation area once it transferred to Parks Victoria, please contact Jack Dinkgreve, **Parks Victoria** on 8427 3053 or email jack.dinkgreve@parks.vic.gov.au.

More information about the Yellingbo Conservation Area:

If you would like to know more about the creation of the Yellingbo Conservation Area as set out in VEAC's 2013 Final Report, go to <http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/investigation/yellingbo-investigation>

Yours sincerely



Chris Padovani
Regional Manager – Land, Planning and Approvals

DATE 6/7/2016