

BN & GL COLE

WESBURN 3799

4TH July 2016

Hon Lily D'A, brosio
Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Water
Level 17, 8 Nicholson Street
EAST MELBOURNE Vic 3002

Dear Minister:

RE: Yellingbo Conservation Area & Cancellation of Crown Land Water Frontage Licences.

We are writing in regard to the proposed take back of river frontage abutting farm land along the Yarra River, and the subsequent growth corridor proposal.

Speaking as a third generation land owner affected by this situation I am deeply dismayed at the lengths of deception that your department has gone to with regard to this whole situation. We understand perfectly that this land was on a leased basis BUT the ramifications of the forthcoming proposals have a devastating effect on many lives and livelihoods.

- 1) The bush fire risks that your department will place on these property owners is astounding, with no consultation regarding your contingency plans should a fire occur. Some of these proposed re-growth corridors come within a short distance of people's homes, us being one of those people. Is your department going to be held accountable for those of us that may lose our homes due to this decision and the lack of maintenance that will occur and we speak from experience!
- 2) Your department has not been forthcoming with regard to the cost of not only instigating this but maintaining this proposal.
- 3) Security is a real issue for landowners once this proposal goes ahead as the public will have unrestricted access to within 15 metres of our buildings, which we will not be able to monitor as the proposed corridor width is 65 metres from the river.
- 4) What is the plan / cost for maintaining this growth corridor and access to the sites again we the landowners who this situation affects have not been consulted.
- 5) Your department has not been forthcoming in regard to the length this proposed growth corridor is going to encompass, will this affect properties in inner Melbourne suburbs that abut the Yarra River, I would hope that all landowners unless they own right to the river will have this imposed on them, and that all land owners will be informed of the affected areas.

It appears to us that currently your department is targeting a few (those of us that have paid our water frontage licences), it does not appear that this is widely spread knowledge to all of those that will be affected in the future or will this be one of the many projects that affect a few then get re-thought, decisions changed and only those initial landowners bare the brunt of these ideas. We as

landowners have taken care of what was given to us on a lease basis, we have treated this land and the river with due respect, as it is of great benefit to us to do so. This decision to remove this land from landowners will in effect put the river in danger of neglect as is already happening; you currently have fallen trees choking this beautiful river of which no maintenance is being performed as this is classed as habitat for the fish etc, this is rubbish, all it causes is erosion.

So our question to you Minister is DOES THIS DECISION ONLY AFFECT THE FARMER!!!

Yours concerned

Bruce & Gayle Cole