

*Letter of Concern regarding the Expansion of Yellingbo Conservation Area*

*Dear Ms Kelly,*

*I am writing to you to protest my strong objection to the way the "Expansion of Yellingbo Conservation Area" has slipped through parliament without the proper consultation and advertisement to many Yarra Ranges landholders directly affected such as myself. Supposedly it was released for public comment on Thursday 6 December 2012, and then second submission period closed on 25 March 2013.*

*I believe it was a deceptive and underhanded way to go about getting river reserve out of the hands of landholders outside of the Yellingbo area by calling the proposal "Yellingbo Conservation Area" when Gladysdale has nothing to do with Yellingbo therefore not attracting attention of landholders outside of the Yellingbo area.*

*I knew NOTHING of this proposal and as I own 2 land holdings with river lease, I would have expected to at least had 1 direct notification of such a proposal, telling me I was about to lose my lease.*

*The river on the opposite side of my property has already been fenced for some years by the "Healthy Waterways project" and is now overgrown by weeds such as blackberry, willow and honeysuckle.*

*There has never been any attempt since fencing off the river to attend to the invasive weeds and as such has negated any benefit to the environment that fencing was supposed to achieve. It has made it worse by smothering any smaller native trees and shrubs trying to grow in this area. Even the large gums are being choked by these invasive weeds and causing a large number to fall and block the river.*

*My side of the river has an abundance of wildlife which we encourage and the weed infested side opposite does not have such wildlife, what does this say about where the wildlife would rather be? All that lives on the weed infested side is foxes and feral cats, I do not want to contribute to the*

*expansion of feral animals in my area but this is what will happen when fencing commences.*

*I do not want this to happen to my side of the river as I keep this area weed free and encourage native growth. It is ridiculous to think that the Yellingbo Conservation Reserve has the capacity to keep weeds and pest animals in check when the current area already fenced around rivers in the Yarra Valley is already a disgrace and fire hazard.*

*My house is only meters from the river reserve and as such this "Expansion of Yellingbo Conservation Area" will place my home and my family's safety at great risk. We currently keep this area weed and fuel free. This is of extreme concern to me and I will hold any parties that contribute to the build-up of combustible fuel in this area directly responsible should such a disaster occur to impact my family. How will the 10 30 rule be implemented on my property boundary now?*

*If this goes ahead on my property I will effectively be land locked out of the only paddock I own rendering this area useless.*

*I will also lose access to my water pumps on the river which provide me with my domestic and firefighting water. Is the "Expansion of Yellingbo Conservation Area" going to provide me with water?*

*I will not comply with this ridiculous expansion of what is effectively a weed and fire haven in my backyard.*

*Feel free to contact me in regards to this but as no one has in the past before this proposal went ahead, I doubt no one will now.*

*Regards*

[REDACTED]

*Gladysdale Victoria 3797*

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