



NEWSLETTER No. (7) 19th September, 2016

Dear Member,

The Yarra Waterways Group Committee, at its' normal meeting held on Thursday September 15 moved a motion to thank Cr Jim Childs and all the Yarra Ranges Councillors for their unanimous support in recommending to the State Government the following:

'Winding back of the implementation of the Yellingbo Conservation Area to the original VEAC investigation Proposed Yellingbo Investigation Area map dated 22 June 2011' [Quote from Yarra Ranges Council minutes.](#)

The YWG committee believe this is a move in the right direction, we encourage as a **matter of urgency**, all members to follow up their earlier "Letters of Concern" with "**Letters of Support**" backing the Shire motion.

Attached is a list of relevant politicians/government authorities.

Also attached is a sample letter in a word document that can be edited/used as a template.

It's very important we get behind this initiative of Cr Childs to help it gain momentum, a real opportunity for us!!

DELWP has told us a new round of letters will be going out to Yarra River Licence holders before the 30th September deadline. We note that a two wire electric fence constitutes a fence for keeping cattle out if needed.

As stated in last week's email to members, the 2011 Yellingbo map has from Launching Place upstream out of the investigation area.

It's the Stated Policy of the YWG committee that area from Woori Yallock upstream is taken out of the SECA area.



A review of a recent *Melbourne Water –Stream frontage Management Agreement* offered to one of our members, we make the following points:

- The agreement wants the fence to be on the public/private boundary—even though an existing fence, agreed to some years ago basically just followed the edge of the river.
We think this can be challenged—page 10 note3 of the VEAC final report.
- The agreement is for 5 years plus 1 year of implementation (6) years in total. Nothing offered beyond the 6 years.
Would assume Parks Vic would manage after 6 years.
- The agreement has a clause allowing access for Parks Victoria through the landowner's property after 2018.
Another one of our members had this clause removed from a recent agreement.
- River Health division of Melbourne Water will become involved once the revegetation takes place.
Members tell us that River Health do not allow slashing between re-planted trees because the grass is considered habitat (not a fire risk) and cattle grazing for a brief clean-up is not allowed (hoofed animals damage native flora).
- No mention in the agreement which department is responsible for the fire risk that will develop.
The river reserve on this property is much wider than the standard 30 metre, it would be reasonable to assume a considerable fire risk will develop.
- The agreement does offer grant money for fencing, re-vegetation and on-going weed control over the 6 year period.
This has to be balanced up with all the above and the uncertainty of the whole SECA situation, especially now the Shire has passed its recent motion.

We encourage any members approached over their river reserves to contact the YWG committee.