



NEWSLETTER(2) – 26th July, 2016

Dear Member,

The YWG Committee would like to report the following...

1. The Yellingbo Committee have produced a website-ycaccyellingbo.com

Please study it carefully, they are claiming to have answered many of our questions in the FAQ section. We make the following observations:-

- a. The detailed evidence presented backing the claim- 'Riparian vegetation poses a low fire risk' does not model our type of river flats (topography), does not reflect the type of pasture on our flats, the example of narrow fire wicks, wet vegetation, etc. We will be refuting this evidence in our submission.
 - b. The rest of the explanations on 'Fire Risk' only increase our concerns.
 - c. Grazing Licence phase out, the demand that property owners have to fence off the river reserves—the idea that DELWP is to maintain the reserves till Parks Victoria get around to re-vegetating sometime after 2018 is unsatisfactory.
 - d. Water access for stock could end up very expensive and involve a lot of red tape, with no certainty to the outcome.
 - e. There are no answers to our specific pest control issues.
 - f. Weed control explanations give us no confidence when you look at the patchy weed control on areas they already look after.
2. A letter has been sent to the relevant authorities from the committee stating:- 'You cannot expect our members to co-operate when, we were not consulted, nor have our concerns been addressed'.
 3. A solicitors letter has been sent requesting clarification on the fence issue where landowners previously took part in MWSFS.
 4. Anyone that knows of any Aboriginal artefacts found along their river reserves, could they let [REDACTED] know.



5. NOW ON TO A COMPLETELY NEW DEVELOPMENT

There was a recent article in the local paper “Protecting the Yarra” this is about a new act proposed by the Andrews Government titled the “YARRA RIVER PROTECTION ACT”. Basically it means establishing a new overriding authority (yes another layer of bureaucrats) that will set policy guidelines for the whole of the Yarra and Tributaries and the surrounding land. It’s important as landowners we have a voice in the formation of this act.

We have been offered three ways to participate:-

- a. Warburton visitor information centre, Sat. 30th July 10am till 1pm—this is a listening post where you can have your say—please attend if possible, your concerns about the Yellingbo investigation will apply to this also.
- b. Community Workshop in Healesville, August 4th—see att. document.
- c. A written submission via <http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/protecting-the-yarra-river> this must be in by August 4th.

The Government set up a reference group to give them initial advice for this act, the reference group only consulted with land-care groups, friends of groups, and other green-type focus groups—no discussion with the present custodians of stream side land!

We need to let them know we are responsible land-care managers and do not appreciate being directed by academic authorities.

The more members can participate in the above the better.

Yarra Waterways Committee.