

19th October 2016

Ms Kelly Crosthwaite
Regional Director
Port Phillip Region
Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Private Bag 15
FERNTREE GULLY DELIVERY CENTRE 3156

Dear Ms Crosthwaite:

We are writing in regard to the current issue that a number of land owners abutting the Yarra River face.

We have followed as was requested by your department, we have fenced our property accordingly, and have had our property surveyed prior to all of this nonsense. We have maintained with pride the privilege we have been afforded (albeit paid for) by having the Yarra River at our back door, I am third generation on this property; hence this area has been a large part of my life.

We attended your drop in session at Woori Yallock with three questions that will affect us greatly, unfortunately we did not have these questioned addressed sufficiently:

- 1) What is going to be planted in this area reclaimed by your department?**
- 2) How is this area going to be maintained long term?**
- 3) What is the fire contingency plan for this area long term?**

These issues need to be addressed, not in 2017, 2018 etc but immediately, your department has brought a real fire risk to our back door as we are only approximately 30 metres from this proposal as it has done to countless other landowners as well as the communities in general. I can tell you with utter certainty that should a fire issue arise due to the fuel that will be planted along this corridor; we would stay to protect our home, my family land of 75 years, so your department's inability to not have an adequate answer to these very simple questions is totally unacceptable.

Your paragraph regarding a potential increase to a fire risk is propaganda, it is a **REAL** risk of which your department has foisted onto innocent people, my husband has 11 plus years' experience in fighting bush fires and he has never until this point worried about our safety, your department is now making this a real issue.

To then offer a Riparian Management License is an insult, you have reclaimed what is yours which is far enough, we have no problem with that, but to expect the landowner to then pick up and fix a mess that has been created due to a lack of planning, discussion & consultation with those that are directly affected is absurd, your departments do not have the manpower to maintain such a large area, then to add insult your letter goes on to state those that take this offer MAY be eligible to graze some stock as a management tool, again an insult to the intelligence of the landowner.

We are all conservationist, this is blatantly obvious in the way we have kept the river frontage. Another question that I would like to ask will this Yellingbo Conservation Project extend the full length of the Yarra River I would imagine not as the people in the suburban areas would not tolerate

these underhanded measures. Would it not have been a fairer proposal to have said we wish to remove domestic stock from the Yarra River rather than use a bird or possum?

Gayle & Bruce Cole

[REDACTED]

Wesburn 3799