

Hon. Peter Walsh MP

Member for Murray Plains | Leader of The Nationals

Thursday, 22 December, 2016

Ms Jenny Barber
PO Box 292,
Yarra Junction VIC 3797

Dear Ms Barber

Thank you for contacting me in regards to the implementation of the Yellingbo Conservation Area.

It was disappointing to read that the Minister D'ambrosio delegated a response to her department instead of answering you directly. On your behalf, I have written to her and requested that the Minister ensure genuine consultation is with landowners and stakeholder groups including Yarra Waterway Group and the local shire councils.

I understand the importance to landholders of maintaining access to the river and tributaries in order to access water for stock and domestic purposes and the potential danger bushfires pose in the region.

I was concerned to learn earlier this year that the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) had written to landholders informing them they had to remove infrastructure from any crown river frontage. It is my understanding that DELWP has since softened the original approach and has agreed to issue riparian management licences to adjacent landholders.

I am pleased with this result as it supports the rights of landholders and primary producers in the Upper Yarra, ensures continued access to water for landholders and allows landholders to manage riparian land for bushfire risk.

In regards to this bushfire risk DELWP is currently undertaking a bushfire risk assessment process. If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to participate in this process to ensure your concerns are heard.

More information on this process can be found at delwp.vic.gov.au/news-and-announcements/bushfire-risk-assessment-begins-for-yellingbo-conservation-area.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please be assured the Liberal and Nationals MPs are taking an active interest in developments around the Yellingbo Conservation Area with the interests of landholders, primary producers and water users in mind.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely



Peter Walsh
Member for Murray Plains
Shadow Minister for Agriculture
Shadow Minister for Water
Shadow Minister for Regional Development

peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au www.peterwalsh.org.au

496 High Street, Echuca VIC 3564

ph 03 5482 2039 or 1300 467 906

 @PeterWalshMP  /PeterWalshMLA



for Regional Victoria