

## THANKYOU ALL FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE HAINING FARM PROCESS

As your representatives on the Haining Working Group we would like you to know that for the past 7 months we have been working on everybody's behalf to ensure that Haining Farm moved forward with the community's preferences for the future development of the site.

There have been many constructive and informative meetings with representatives from DELWP, CFA, Yellingbo Committee with ourselves. A great deal of discussion has taken place during the process, taking into consideration everyone's concerns resulting in the decision that the final Concept should be a compromise which would result in all parties having an interest in the future role of the farm which was compatible with the communities expectations.

The concept gave conservation and farming each 50% of the property, which we felt was both fair and equitable. This outcome would allow a sustainable use of the property for all concerned.

On 4 September 2017 we received a response to our submission by the sponsor of the working group, DELWP and Parks Victoria which totally disregarded all of our efforts, and in place was a concept which mirrored the original Greening Australia plan for the farm, which was prepared in 2015. There were reasons given for this turnaround, including the mention of the online Community Engagement Report which had 80% of respondents supporting the concept of converting the property to conservation park for the States Threatened species. What they fail to mention was that within the immediate and surrounding localities was support for the retention of the farming activities, preferring to accept the views of conservation lists throughout Australia.

Are we not the ones directly impacted and thereby entitled to greater consideration??.

As locals we did not have the resources of Zoo's Victoria, and Greening Australia to mount a National Campaign. Zoo's alone have 255,000 friends, who all received personal emails from the CEO of Zoo's Victoria.

We believed with the 50/50 split of the farm sufficient area was provided for habitat for both the Helmeted Honeyeater and the Lowland Leadbeater Possum to enjoy a new home, especially as a large section of land on the opposite side of the Yarra River was being revegetated by Melbourne Water. We also pointed out the large areas of the Sewerage farm could have been incorporated into the design for habitat.

The goal it would appear from the outset was to discontinue Dairying, to revegetate the site, create wetlands by altering the hydrology to create Riparian Woodlands, making a new and improved Yellingbo Reserve.

We have been told that our preferred concept increases the fire risk, but that their concept of revegetating the entire site does, what do you think??.

So no more cows and calves, no more grassy paddocks which have provided us all with a perpetual fire break, and safe use of Don Road if a fire were to occur in Don Valley.

We will continue to address these issues in the hope of a more balanced outcome.

If you wish to comment on the outcome decided by DELWP and Parks please write or email the Minister Hon Lily D'Ambrosio

Email : [lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au).

Letters : Hon Liliana D'Ambrosio

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Level 36 , 121 Exhibition Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000

Also you may wish to copy in our local representative Cindy McLeish at [cindymcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:cindymcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Kind Regards Your Committee Members

Cassandra Stanley Happy to email the return letter re our submission to anyone interested Contact me on [cassandrastanley@bigpond.com](mailto:cassandrastanley@bigpond.com)

Rick Houlihan

Kate Warne

Pam Wilson

Andrew Martin

Melanie Scott

Sid Horne