



Dear Yarra Waterways Members,

The committee is holding a public meeting to discuss where we are at and our plans for the future. The committee is unanimous in the decision to insist on the removal of our north east corner from the Yellingbo Conservation Area (from the bridge over the Yarra at Woori Yallock upstream).

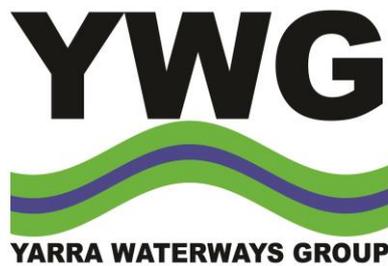
The meeting will be held Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm at the Yarra Junction Primary School.

Rick will be addressing the Yarra Ranges Council on Tuesday the 13th of March at 7pm to inform the councilors that as residents we believe it is the council's duty of care to their residents to insist that the Yellingbo Conservation Area release their incredible fire risk assessment inputs. We need your support at the council meeting to ensure that our council doesn't return to an ideology-based conservation instead of community based practical sustainable conservation. More on this in the near future.

The Victorian Parliament elections are later this year. Rick summed it up at the last committee meeting when he said this is a do or die year for us. To explain I am going to talk politics. Sorry!

The Labour Party has clearly shown that they are backing the Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee that has graded us as of little influence. The government's actions reflect this, as they ignore our many questions, as if the questions and the people asking them are below their need to give consideration to, compared to that of the green vote. Because of our professional, never say die pressure, placed on the government, we know that Haining Farm and the Yellingbo Conservation Area has been discussed at the highest level. Their fire risk assessment for Haining and the fire risk assessment for the whole of the Yellingbo Conservation Area, that is to be revegetated, gives a result of 0% increase in fire risk. This is intriguing as with the huge volume of correspondence concerning increased fire risk presented to them. Don't their actions leave the Victorian taxpayers liable for a massive class action payout when the next major fire event happens?

Why don't they support the landowners that are custodians of Melbourne's quality water supply? Remember 70% of Melbourne's water comes from the Yarra catchment. The 4 pumps on the Yarra at Yering have the ability to pump 1,000 megs a day, the equivalent of Melbourne's daily use.



The main source of pollution to the Yarra system is storm water from mainly urban areas and septic systems not yet sewered in urban areas. MW are aware of this. These are MW responsibilities but still they demonise us!

Once again, this email is getting long, but people make change. The government only implement the will of the people. Up till now the inner-city greens have yelled loudest and I suggest the smartest. But we are the people of the Yarra and live in a " true " community, that does not accept this apparent degrading of our worth simply because we are not as system smart as those that appear to have a wish to dominate us.

Attached is a letter from Kelly Crosthwaite, written on behalf of the Minister Lily D'Ambrosio as a reply to a number of emails from me. If you remember one of these was a list of questions. Once again " NO " answers. No acknowledgment that they total ignored the community working Group's recommendations. Parks and DELWP instead dictated what is going to happen at Haining. Take one look at the current Yellingbo Reserve to judge their " fire mitigation measures "!

Needless to say I immediately replied, which is also attached.

Daryl Cochrane  
Yarra Waterways Group