



Warrandyte Community Association

4 May 2016

Native Vegetation Consultation Submission

The Warrandyte Community Association Inc. (WCA) was established in 2001 and incorporated in March 2002. WCA is an active resident group of the Warrandyte community and has a membership of several hundred residents of Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and North Warrandyte.

The WCA's mandate is to:-

- Promote all aspects of community life in Warrandyte.
- Defend the character and heritage of the Township.
- **Protect the environment and encourage restoration and regeneration of native flora and fauna.**
- **Protect the Green Wedge (Non-urban areas).**
- Promote sporting, educational, recreational and cultural activities.
- Defend and enhance community assets.
- WCA engages in regular meetings with residents and the local government (City of Manningham and Shire of Nillumbik). These meetings address local issues, planning matters, environmental and other community issues.

This submission on behalf of the WCA is in response to the proposed changes following the State Government review of the Native Vegetation Management Framework.

The WCA is in accord with the Joint Statement issued by the VNPA on behalf of many signatory groups which includes the Friends of Warrandyte State Park.

In particular, the WCA supports outcomes that strengthen, not weaken, the management framework, leading to a significant net gain in native habitat. We express our support for the following key elements of a revised framework:-

- Net gain policy – that there should be a reversal across the entire landscape of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a net gain.



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- A 3-step approach to assessing native vegetation – that is avoid clearing, minimize clearing, offset clearing, with an emphasis on avoiding clearing.
- Like for like – offsets are to be as close as possible in vegetation type to the lost vegetation of an even more threatened vegetation type and should only be an option of last resort.
- A robust, sophisticated and transparent vegetation quality assessment methodology undertaken by a qualified assessor to a high standard.

The WCA always seeks robust, timely and transparent local community consultation, and in addition to the Joint Statement's requests, asks that any review of the Native Vegetation Management Framework also:-

- Be undertaken in an appropriate manner, involving extensive consultation with all sections of the community, including conservation and Landcare groups, **residents and young people.**
- Be informed by contemporary ecological science and philosophies, including economic valuing of vegetation and **the long-term, non-economic asset that it represents.**

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to this important review.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Davies
President, Warrandyte Community Association.