



Warrandyte Community Association

INC. A0042350W

PO Box 75, **Warrandyte** 3113

Review of native vegetation clearing regulations, Consultation Paper

Submission by Douglas Seymour on behalf of WCA

9 May 2016

Ref: WCA submission Future directions for Native Vegetation in Victoria , October 2012

Submission

Proposed Improvement 3: *Develop guidance to support strategic planning relating to native vegetation protection and management.*

It is essential that local government councils improve preparation and consultation practice when upgrading environmental controls at a local level.

The templar of how NOT to place such an amendment on exhibition has to be the current largely failed attempt by Nillumbik Shire Council to promulgate Amendment C101, intended to update protection of biodiversity values within the Green Wedge. A sound objective but poor preparation and a confusing consultation process has set back the process, possibly irretrievably. Outdated maps, clumsy broad-brush application, confusing multiple generic notices with minor variations to property owners, a heavy handed attempt to delegate all assessment responsibilities out to the landowner, absurd claims that no cost is involved ; it went on and on.

Proposed Improvement 8: *Require an offset strategy for all applications and consider this in decision making*

The WCA has no faith in offset practices and urges the priority return to maintaining habitat in place.

Proposed Improvement 13: *Increase the information available about the maps used in the regulations and improve their accessibility.*

In 2012 when the WCA last submitted on this issue a staff reduction program was underway within the Department. Proper maintenance of the bio database and maps requires a long term and serious commitment by Government as the whole system fails without this.

We remain very concerned that proper priority be devoted to these resources.

Proposed Improvement 20. *Create a framework for offsetting on Crown land.*

The WCA would support this initiative and adds a plea that the Department work interactively and actively with other Agencies like VicForests to help conserve the current inventory within Crown Land holdings. Association members have been horrified, for example, by the poor commitment to conservation values in East Gippsland, particularly on the Errinundra Plateau.

One hand works for the good while the other is asleep at the wheel.

Douglas Seymour