



Bessie Creek / Ararat Creek Landcare Group

22nd of February, 2018

Victorian Planning Authority,
Level 25,
35 Collins Street,
Melbourne, Vic 3000

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: C234 Pakenham East PSP

Referring to the Pakenham East Precinct Structure Plan we would like to make the following amendments:-

1. We would like you to add a wildlife corridor/biodiversity linkage of 20 metres between the two wetlands along the Princes Freeway for the movement of wildlife from one waterway to the next;
2. We would like you to increase the vegetation to create a conservation area in the Hancock Gully by carrying out a mass planting with locally sourced indigenous plants around the two wetlands and along the entire gully – north and south of the Old Princes Highway – 20 metres either side of the stream – 40 metres in total – completely fenced with ring lock to protect the wildlife from predators;
3. To improve the conservation areas along the northern and southern sides of the Old Princes Highway by completely removing all environmental weeds and replacing them with locally sourced indigenous plants to form two connected wildlife corridors/biodiversity linkages between Deep Creek Conservation Areas and the proposed Hancock Gully Conservation Areas;
4. To create a wildlife corridor/biodiversity linkage to connect the Deep Creek Conservation area in the south near Canty Lane with the wetland along the Princes Freeway abutting the future government school, as an educational environmental asset for the use of the school, as well as to allow the movement of wildlife along this corridor and with this connection to encourage a greater diversity of wildlife species that require a greater area of habitat;

5. In the north to form a 10 metre linkage just south below the transmission line to form a wildlife corridor/biodiversity linkage between three areas – the Deep Creek Conservation Area to the Local Park 01 and across to the Hancock Gully Conservation Area.

The five above points will ensure that the local residents have conservation areas to enjoy, to be surrounded by wildlife, education opportunities, to improve their mental health, to provide shade and cooling effects, cleaner air, provide run-off for the paved areas and to help purify the water before it enters Westernport Bay.

To protect the biodiverse flora and fauna living in the Pakenham East Precinct it is imperative that a cat curfew be imposed and also a dog on leash policy except for one credited small open space for a leash free area.

In reading your literature, we do not see any reference to improving the traffic situation outside of the Pakenham East Precinct. As you will be creating at a minimum of 14,200 cars on the surrounding roads you have put no infrastructure in place to enable these cars to move onto the Princes Freeway. Already the Koo-wee-rup/Healesville Interchange is under stress from the increasing local population, with traffic from Phillip Island now coming this way; extra traffic from the industrial area along Bald Hill Road, as well as the railway crossing at Pakenham which halts the flow of traffic when the boom gates are down.

Regarding the Nar Nar Goon/Bessie Creek Interchange, there will be future traffic stress with the construction and permanent jobs with the Metro and VicRail Railway Workshop to the south of the Princes Freeway and also the proposed expansion of the Nar Nar Goon Township. Traffic stress and congestion impinges on road safety, liveability of the area, potential road rage, delay frustration and environmental pollution of cars stuck in traffic.

The increased volume of traffic on our roads outside the subdivision, has not been taken into consideration with your Pakenham East Precinct Structure Plan.

Please consider the abovementioned submission amendments, as these are very important issues to existing residents of the area. If you require any further information regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me either by my email or mobile phone noted below. Please advise me the outcome of the consideration of this submission and provide me the contact details of your officer with whom I should liaise with in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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Treasurer of Bessie Creek/Ararat Creek Landcare Group

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