We wish to support various aspects of the Pakenham East Precinct Structure Plan and to query other aspects.

We strongly support:

1. The areas highlighted as “conservation areas” - especially along the existing Canty Lane as well as along Deep Creek.

2. We support the duplication of Canty Lane so as to avoid disturbing Canty Lane as it is.

3. The area adjacent to the first bridge (“Jim’s Bridge”) along Deep Creek from Ryan Road is particularly significant. This conservation area adds to credited open space along the east side of Deep Creek. It is especially significant as the remnant vegetation and tree planting there protects a natural spring. This area was once part of a 13 acre designated water reserve - always referred to as “The Springs” - and only ceased to be Crown Land in the sixties. It used to be a watering place for stock in the area and for stock being driven to market. Access to The Springs was along a lane off Princess Highway or along what is now Canty Lane. During droughts it provided water for the district. Surrounding “The Springs” is a very important copse of remnant vegetation as well as a larger new planting of indigenous flora.

4. The conservation of Canty Lane as it is is important. It provides habitat connectivity between remaining remnant vegetation at and along Deep Creek. The remaining remnant vegetation will benefit from the land adjacent being designated space, from bush along Canty Lane being retained and boosted by additional planting.

Areas of Concern:

1. We ask that local access to 25 and 35 Canty Lane (off Ryan Road or Canty Lane) as well as to the credited open space area via existing Canty Lane be retained. This would provide access for fire protection and maintenance. It is already a well used walking and bike track.

2. We ask that the access Street along the boundary of the conservation area at 35 Canty Lane be indicative only at this stage. Future subdivision plans could allow for enhanced protection of the designated conservation area off Canty Lane.

3. Please consider reinstating access along Ryan Road to Bald Hill Road. Directing all traffic via Princess Highway is a disaster at the moment because it causes congestion at Racecourse Road. Residents of Ryan Road, Pinheil Drive, Canty Lane, Fairway Court and Johanna Court already struggle due to being forced to go and return via Princes Highway. There have been times when we have been stranded between the bridge on Ryan Road and the Railway line. This has happened when flooding of Deep Creek occurs as happened in 2009.

4. Any attempts to diminish the easement along the east side of Deep Creek will be opposed by us on the grounds of flooding, habitat connectivity and Indigenous heritage value. Indigenous Artefacts have been found in places along this line and the opportunity for future examination should be retained.

The securing and linking of Open Areas as well as Conservation Areas will allow challenges for waterway health to be met. These include managing environmental and providing habitat connectivity for plants and animals, while enhancing community access and use.